

TRUTH, IDENTITY & PURPOSE IN POST-CHRISTIAN AMERICA

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• 1 Chronicles 12:32

...from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...

• God's TIP

1. Truth
 - *Its existence*
 - *God's existence (Beginning, Order, Mind & Morality)*
 - *Bible's reliability (No contradictions)*
 - *Jesus' existence & resurrection (Historical records)*
 - *Problem of evil (Evidence of demonic forces)*
2. Identity
 - *Born again spiritually (John 3:6)*
 - *New creation (2 Corinthians 5:17)*
 - *Race, class, gender united in Christ (Galatians 3:28)*
3. Purpose
 - *Cultural Commission (Genesis 1:28)*
 - *Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)*

• Classic Marxism

1. Rich (bourgeoisie) oppress poor (proletariat)

• Cultural Marxism/Neo-Marxism's TIP

1. No Truth, just truth claims of powerful (cultural hegemony)
 - *Dominant culture oppresses marginal groups (race, class, gender)*
 - *Oppressed shouldn't adhere to oppressor's culture (impede revolution)*
2. Identity—oppressed or oppressor
 - *Race, class, gender...*
 - *Opposition & cancellation of "oppressors" (no forgiveness)*
3. Purpose—advocating for oppressed
 - *Tear institutions down (God, family, nation, capitalism...)*
 - *"Social Justice" definition—distribution of privilege, opportunities & wealth (Oxford Dictionary)*

• Thomas Sowell, Stanford University

"The battlefield is everywhere, but especially where the young are being taught—from the elementary school to the university. The sins of the human race are being taught to them as the special depravities of the United States or of Western civilization."

• Antonio Gramsci

1. Italian political theorist (1891-1937)
2. Goal: change Western culture to accept Marxism
3. Developed Critical Theory—attack capitalism & Christianity
 - *Capitalists & social conservatives control culture*
 - *Christian values aren't normative; too focused on afterlife*

• Georg Lukacs

1. Hungarian philosopher (1885-1971)
2. Favorite slogan: "Who will free us from the yoke of Western civilization?"
 - *Religious morality greatest obstacle to Marxism*
3. Started Institute for Social Research in 1923 in Frankfurt, Germany

• Frankfurt School

1. Nazis closed it in 1933
2. Moved to Columbia University
3. Spread Neo-Marxist view of West called Critical Theory

• Critical Theory

1. No universal truths
2. Criticize & eventually command culture (Cultural Marxism)
3. Language & law are instruments of power by oppressors

• Critical Race Theory

1. Race as prism to analyze America
2. Economy, law, society privileges whites (white supremacy)
3. Racism explains inequality of outcomes (focus on outcomes, not opportunities)

- **Social Justice as rival religion to Christianity**

1. Oxford Dictionary definition: distribution of privilege, opportunities, & wealth
2. Explains life & gives purpose
3. Provides moral absolute where opponents confess “sin” but no forgiveness

- **Critical Theory & sexual liberation**

1. Manmade codes are just socially determined
2. Society hindered by sexual repression; leads to anxiety & frustration
3. Charge opponents with “___phobia” (clash of moralities)

- **Religious freedom as problem**

Martin Castro, chairman of the United States Commission on Civil Rights: “The phrases ‘religious liberty’ and ‘religious freedom’ will stand for nothing except hypocrisy so long as they remain code words for discrimination, intolerance, racism, sexism, homophobia, Islamophobia, Christian supremacy or any form of intolerance.”

- **Free speech vs. repressive tolerance**

1. Herbert Marcuse’s “Repressive Tolerance” (1965)
2. Need “intolerance against movements from the right, and toleration of movements from the left”... “restraining the liberty of the right”... “strengthening the oppressed against the oppressors.”
3. Legacy: cancel culture

- **Understand the times and know what to do: Philosophical**

1. Ask basis for judging morality & culture
2. Ask about individual or collective responsibility

- **Political**

1. Ask what replaces Western culture? (Critical Theory is one-way street)
2. Explain tribalism (not multiracial democracy) is norm—Iraq, India, Yugoslavia...
3. Share Freedom House survey of 194 nations (38% free, 28% mostly free, 34% not free)
 - *Free nations almost exclusively due to Western civilization (Not free mostly non-Western)*

- **Logical**

1. Explain more opportunity & higher standard of living here
 - *Asian Americans—Highest % with college degrees & highest average income level (US Census Bureau)*
2. Explain more legal immigrants than any other country (4x more than Germany in 2nd place—UN)
3. Note loaded questions (“Disagreeing with white supremacy charge proves racism”)

- **Legal**

1. Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) allows review of instructional materials
2. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) informs how materials were approved & implemented
3. Fight for rights in lawsuits
 - *1st Amendment (free and no compelled speech; freedom of religion)*
 - *14th Amendment (equal protection under law)*
 - *Civil Rights Act (no discriminating on race, religion, sex...)*
4. Encourage bills that eliminate scapegoating or stereotyping

- **Civil**

1. Communicate & coordinate with others
2. Support police (*Washington Post*)
 - *10 million+ arrests annually (7.4 million whites)*
 - *1000+ killed by police—370 Whites, 235 Blacks (13 unarmed--2019)*
 - *56,000+ assaults against officers (17,000+ injured); 306 killed (2020)*

- **Practical**

1. Explain success not evenly distributed among individuals/groups (*Discrimination & Disparities* by Thomas Sowell)
 - *Parental education* - *Parental attention* - *Socioeconomic level* - *Environment*
 - *Birth order* - *Intelligence* - *Priorities* - *Resiliency*
2. Emphasize “Success Sequence” (Brookings Institute)—97% of Millennials from all groups not in poverty if they
 - *Graduate high school* - *Work fulltime* - *Get married* - *Have children*
3. Emphasize excellence, hard work, discipline, individual responsibility

- **Biblical**

1. Truth
 - *Jesus*
 - *Absolute—fits facts, logic, reality*
2. Identity—peace in Christ (4x in Ephesians 2:11-22)
 - *For divided—like Temple segregation*
 - *Brings reconciliation*
3. Purpose—God is working through us in vocations