

1 Peter 4:7-11

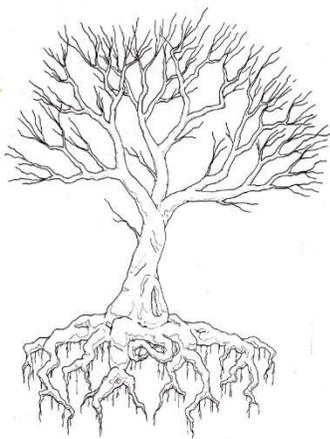
LIVING IN THE CHAOS

Postmodern critical theory argues [that] the explanation of all unequal outcomes in wealth, well being, and power is never due to individual actions or to differences in cultures or to differences in human abilities, but only and strictly due to unjust social structures and systems. ...Reality is at bottom nothing but power. And if that is the case, then to see reality, power must be mapped through the means of "intersectionality." The categories are race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity.. If you are white, male, straight, cisgender then you have the highest amount of power. If you are none of these at all, you are the most marginalized and oppressed. ...Most importantly, each category toward the powerless end of the spectrum has a greater moral authority and a greater ability to see the way truly things are. Only powerlessness and oppression brings moral high ground and true knowledge. Therefore those with more privilege must not enter into any debate—they have no right or ability to advise the oppressed, blinded as they are by their social location. They simply must give up their power. ...It is an illusion to think that, as an individual, you can carve out an identity in any way different or independent of others in your race, ethnicity, gender, and so on. Group identity and rights are the only real ones. Guilt is not assigned on the basis of individual actions but on the basis of group membership and social/racial status.

—Timothy Keller, *A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory*

Our world is changing rapidly...and we feel it...and we fear it. The forces at work in our culture are disorienting, disturbing, and destructive. What is going on? How do we process it? How do we stop it? How do we live in the midst of it?

THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIMES



Postmodernism

- There is no absolute truth.
- I create my own truth/reality.
- Life is about me and what I feel is right and wrong.

Cultural Marxism

- History is about class conflict—the “haves” and the “have nots.”
- Everything in society must be criticized and destroyed.
- The solution is revolution!

The Roots of Our Turmoil

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

—Ephesians 6:12 (cf. Rom. 1:21; 2 Cor. 4:4; 2 Th. 2:7; Rev. 17-18)

I wish to avenge myself against the One who rules above.

...

Then will I wander godlike and victorious through the ruins of the world and, giving my words an active force, I will feel equal to the Creator.

—Karl Marx (1818-83)

Of all tyrannies, tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive.

—C. S. Lewis

Innumerable millions of human beings were killed in this century in the name of utopia.

—Czesław Miłosz (1911-2004)

Wokeness is a fusion of the critical theory school of neo-Marxism which is a form of identity politics...that separates the world into liberationists versus oppressors or oppressed versus oppressors...married with post-modern theory.

—James Lindsay, *Cynical Theories*

LIVING FOR CHRIST IN THE MIDST OF THE WORLD'S CHAOS

Peter wrote *1 Peter* to believers scattered throughout the Roman Empire. He wrote the letter around AD 63, right before persecution would break out under the reign of Nero.

But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:7-11)

- _____! (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:13-17)
- _____! (cf. Dan. 6:10; 9:1-19; 1 Tim. 2:1-4)
- _____! (cf. John 13:34-35; 1 Cor. 13:1-8a)
- _____! (cf. Acts 2:44-47; Rom. 12:13)
- _____! (cf. Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-16)

How to Apply God's Word This Week:

- Read/watch a Christian evaluation of critical theory.
- Use the 31 Day prayer guide to pray daily for our nation.
- Seek to resolve any conflict with another believer.
- If you are able, invite someone to your home this week or find another way to connect with another believer in Christ.
- Use whatever gifts, abilities, or resources that God has given you to bless others in the church or in the community for God's glory!

Greek, *sophroneo*, from *sozo*, "to save" + *phren*, "mind." "To preserve one's sanity" (Barclay).

The great characteristic of sanity is that it sees things in the proper proportions; it sees what things are important and what are not; it is not swept away by sudden and transitory enthusiasms; it is prone neither to unbalanced fanaticism nor to unrealizing indifference. It is only when we see the affairs of earth in the light of eternity that we see them in their proper proportions; it is when God is given his proper place that everything takes its proper place. —William Barclay

Prayer is surrender—surrender to the will of God and cooperation with that will. If I throw out a boat hook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God. —E. Stanley Jones

Hospitality is when someone feels at home in your presence. —Anonymous

Share with the saints in their needs; pursue hospitality. —Romans 12:13

In a hostile world, the church is to be a place of safety and well-being for its members, a place where common beliefs unite more than differences divide. The Christian community is a colony of the holy nation of God among the nations of the world. —Karen Jobes

Resources on Critical Theory:
Dr. Neil Shenvi
Dr. Voddie Baucham