

Critical Theory at the Door of the Church

Today, the pages not only of liberal “Adventist” websites, but of primary SDA publications in North America, namely, the Union papers and the Adventist review, regularly feature the concerns and ideation of critical theory. The present version of this is denominational fascination with alleged racial injustice, social justice, and systemic racism.

Critical theory is the theoretical basis underpinning a distinct worldview intended not only to explain society but also to enlist an army of activists in a radical form of Marxist philosophy. The goal as stated by Herbert Marcuse is “the rupture of history, the radical break, the leap into the realm of freedom, a total rupture.”

Some church thought leaders embrace critical theory openly, but most are likely are unaware of its philosophical origins and goals. These functionally are acting, as “useful idiots” to infect the church with an alien worldview antithetical to Christianity.

Union Seminary Tweet, Sept. 5, 2018

“While divinely inspired, we deny the Bible is inerrant or infallible. It was written by men over centuries and thus reflects both God’s truth and human sin & prejudice. We affirm that biblical scholarship and critical theory help us to discern which messages are God’s.”

Critical Theory is Biblical

Joseph backholm, April 22, 2020

<https://youtu.be/DAABuCC96tI> 5:48

Grand Hotel Abyss

Larry Kirkpatrick, Dec 23, 2017

<http://greatcontroversy.org/sermons/2017/grand-hotel-abyss>

The Capitalist mode of production enables the bourgeoisie (or owners of capital) to exploit the proletariat (or workers) and that class struggle by the proletariat must be the central element in social and historical change. According to Marx, a socialist revolution must occur, in order to establish a 'dictatorship of the proletariat' with the ultimate goal of public ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange (http://www.philosophybasics.com/branch_marxism.html, accessed 2017-12-22).

They [the Frankfurt School] re-conceptualized Marxism... They engaged with the rise of the culture industry and thereby explored a new relationship between culture and politics... they reflected on how everyday life could become the theatre of revolution (*Grand Hotel Abyss*, pp. 9-10).

Capitalism had become not just a mode of production but a system that, through mass culture and communication, technology and various forms of social control, masked the intensity of the exploitation of the proletariat (p. 138).

Herbert Marcuse, ‘Liberation from the Affluent Society,’ (1967)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQLpqno6J_g 8:20

“We are dealing with the dialectic of liberation. [This is] actually redundant, because I believe that all dialectic is liberation, and not only liberation in an intellectual sense, but liberation involving the mind and the body; liberation involving the entire human existence. Think of Plato, the liberation from the

existence in the cave. Think of Hegel, liberation in the sense of progress and freedom on a historical scale. Think of Marx. Now in what sense all dialectic liberation? **It is liberation from a repressive, from a bad, from a false system; be it an organic system, be it a social system, being a mental or intellectual system. Liberation by forces developing within such a system, that is the decisive point. And, liberation by virtue of the contradictions generated by the system, precisely because it is a bad, a false system.**”

“Socialism is the rupture of history, the radical break, the leap into the realm of freedom, a total rupture.”

Social Justice, Critical Theory, and Christianity: Are They Compatible?

Neil Shenvi, April 29, 2020

<https://youtu.be/E33aunwGQQ4> 57:14

Shenvi:

Standard epistemology:

Claim

– reason

– logic

– argument

Evidence

Bulvuristic epistemology:

Claim

motivation/hidden agenda (sidesteps engagement with reason, logic, argument)

Critical Theory epistemology very similar:

Claim

“maintaining supremacy”

“internalized oppression”

“The primary concern for people who’ve embraced contemporary critical theory is not appealing to reason or argument or evidence or even to Scripture. Their primary concern is unearthing and deconstructing the hidden motives behind those truth claims and then ignoring them.” Shenvi

Critical Theory assumes and adversarial relationship between identity groups that is profoundly antithetical to Christianity. But Christianity has three ideas which break this paradigm:

1. creation

2. sin

3 redemption

Christianity	CREATION	FALL	REDEMPTION	RESTORATION
Critical Theory	–	Patriarchy White supremacy Heteronormativity Toxic Masculinity OPPRESSION Classism Agism Ableism CISGenderism	Protest Resistance ACTIVISM Education Awareness	Equality Power Reversal LIBERATION Justice Diversity

Neil Shenvi website:

<https://shenviapologetics.com>

<https://shenviapologetics.com/social-justice-critical-theory-and-christianity-are-they-compatible-part-1-2/>

Podcast: What Is Critical Theory, and What's Behind It? (Interview with Neil Shenvi)

<https://youtu.be/RfYh29oa6hE> 38:09

Conrad Vine

Fucrum7.com

“Each new power won by man is a power over man as well. . . In every victory, besides being the general who triumphs, he is also the prisoner who follows the triumphal car. . . The power of man to make himself what he pleases means the power of some men to make other men what they please. . . . The process which, if not checked, will abolish Man goes on apace among Communists and Democrats no less than among Fascists. The methods may (at first) differ in brutality. But many a mild eyed scientist in prince-nez, many a popular dramatist, many an amateur philosopher in our midst, means in the long run just the same as the Nazi rulers of Germany. Traditional values are to be ‘debunked’ and mankind to be cut out into some fresh shape at the will (which must, by hypothesis, be an arbitrary will) of some few lucky people in one lucky generation which has learned how to do it. . . once we killed bad men: now we liquidate unsocial elements” (CS Lewis, The Abolition of Man).

Bonus:

Former KGB Agent Yuri Bezmenov Warns America about socialist Subversion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1EA2ohrt5Q> 13:36