

# What COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, and 'Woke' America is Revealing About the Church

## Responding to Racism – A Biblical Alternative to CRT, BLM, and Identity Politics

### 3 presuppositions:

1) The fruit of \_\_\_\_\_ is real and the root of racism is \_\_\_\_.

Therefore, only a \_\_\_\_\_ solution will suffice.

Sin is the fundamental reason that human beings (regardless of their race) need to be reconciled first to God and second to one another, for sin has shattered the relationship of human beings with God and one another.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned – <sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, **as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.** <sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Romans 5:12-21

<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

- Galatians 3:27-29

2) The "world" is \_\_\_\_\_ of devising the solutions it seeks.

## **8 Foundations of Critical Race Theory:**

1. It assumes that racism is always present in society.
2. It upholds "interest convergence" – the belief that dominant racial groups only help oppressed racial groups when it is to their advantage.
3. It seeks to replace "liberal democracy" with "ideal democracy" wherein oppression didn't limit people's capacities to participate in the full measures of democratic society. The primary target is hegemony.
4. It teaches that racism is "systemic" and pervades everything. Any unequal outcomes must be explained by racism.
5. It maintains that "race" was socially constructed by white people to discriminate against other races. Because white people benefit from this dominance, they perpetuate it – even without realizing it – making all white people complicit in racism and white supremacy.
6. It teaches that racism is almost impossible to get rid of within existing systems. Therefore, it can only be ended by a social revolution that reorders society.
7. It suggests that science, reason, rationality, and evidence are "cultural products" of white, Western men and carry biases that favor those groups.
8. It espouses Whiteness as a form of property that is inherently "anti-blackness". In terms of "social and institutional status and identity whites are imbued with legal political, economic, and social rights and privileges that are denied to others" that white people have unjust access to by virtue of having been classified as white.

## **5 reasons Black Lives Matter is incompatible with Biblical Christianity: (1<sup>st</sup> 3 Adapted from *Decision Magazine*)**

1. Black Lives Matter seeks to dismantle the Biblical definition of \_\_\_\_\_.

In their own words, they are "committed to disrupting the Western prescribed nuclear family structure requirement." One man married to one woman is not a *Western* prescription for family; it's a *Biblical* one. The mystery of two (man and woman) becoming one flesh is so powerful a union that the Apostle Paul used this illustration to talk about Christ and the church in Ephesians 5.

2. Black Lives Matter champions the celebration of \_\_\_\_\_.

In their own words, BLM gathers "with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or, rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual unless s/he or they disclose otherwise." No matter what secular culture decides about sexuality, the Bible is still unequivocal regarding God's design for sexual intimacy.

2. Black Lives Matter touts gender confusion as \_\_\_\_\_ and seeks to make heroes of those who are mentally confused.

The movement wants to “dismantle cis-gender privilege and uplift Black trans folk.” This “justice” movement is also the movement of gender revolution. BLM is “committed to embracing and making space for trans brothers and sisters to participate and lead.”

4. Black Lives Matters has \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ at its roots.

Hebah Farrag, assistant director of research at the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, writes this in an article for the Berkley Center:

*The movement for Black lives works towards the goal of not just racial justice, but freedom of the mind and the spirit. It encourages “healing justice,” so that people can heal from trauma and engage as the best version of themselves. The movement infuses a syncretic blend of African and indigenous cultures’ spiritual practices and beliefs, embracing ancestor worship; Ifa-based ritual such as chanting, dancing, and summoning deities; and healing practices such as acupuncture, reiki, therapeutic massage, and plant medicine.*

5. Black Lives Matters’ founders have an avowed ideological framework: \_\_\_\_\_.

Visit the Black Lives Matter website, and the 1<sup>st</sup> frame you get is a large crowd with fists raised and the slogan “Now We Transform”. Read the list of demands, and you get a sense of how deep a transformation they seek. Also, consider the clear booklet called “A Vision for Black Lives: Policy Demands for Black Power, Freedom, & Justice.” There, the Movement for Black Lives explains its ambitions stating:

*While this platform is focused on domestic policies, we know that patriarchy, exploitative capitalism, militarism, and white supremacy know no borders. We stand in solidarity with our international family against the ravages of global capitalism and anti-Black racism, human-made climate change, war, and exploitation. We also stand with descendants of African people all over the world in an ongoing call and struggle for reparations for the historic and continuing harms of colonialism and slavery.*

The authors also demand:

*reparations for the systemic denial of access to high quality educational opportunities in the form of full and free access for all black people (including undocumented and currently and formerly incarcerated people) to lifetime education including: free access and open admissions to public community colleges and universities, technical education, ... educational support programs, retroactive forgiveness of student loans, and support for lifetime learning programs.*

Under the Divest-Invest section, the movement, among other things, demands:

*The retroactive decriminalization, immediate release and record expungement of all drug-related offenses and prostitution and reparations for the devastating impact of the “war on drugs” and criminalization of prostitution, including a reinvestment of the resulting savings and revenue into restorative services, mental health services, job programs and other programs supporting those impacted by the sex and drug trade.*

Under Economic Justice, they assert the need for:

*A right to restored land, clean air, clean water and housing and an end to the exploitative privatization of natural resources—including land and water. Democratic control over how resources are preserved, used and distributed and do so while honoring and respecting the rights of our Indigenous family.*

Therefore, the \_\_\_\_\_ must offer a biblical \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, **that he might create in himself one new man** in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Ephesians 2:11-22

3) The church is playing \_\_\_\_\_ when we should have been \_\_\_\_\_ in racial reconciliation.

Therefore, we need to take collective \_\_\_\_\_ now to demonstrate God's Kingdom.

The Bible calls Christians to love one another (Rom 12:10; 13:8; 1 Thess 3:12; 4:9–10), to live in harmony with one another (Rom 12:16; 14:19; 15:5; 1 Cor 12:25), not to judge one another (Rom 14:13), to receive one another (Rom 15:7), to greet one another with affection (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12), to share the Lord's Supper with one another in the appropriate manner (1 Cor 11:33), to serve one another (Gal 5:13), and not to consume one another with insidious actions (Gal 5:15). Also, to bear the burdens of one another (Gal 6:2), to be patient with one another (Eph 4:2; Col 3:12–13), to be kind to one another (Eph 4:32), to submit to one another with reverence for Christ (Eph 5:21), to treat one another as more valuable than oneself (Phil 2:3), to live sacrificially for one another (Phil 2:5–9), not to lie to one another (Col 3:9), to encourage one another with the truths of God (1 Thess 4:18; 5:11), and to do good to one another (1 Thess 5:15).

Remember that Jews and Gentiles hated one another before their faith in Christ, but God's work of regeneration in their lives converted their hatred toward one another into love (Titus 3:3–7).

**Some actions we can take right now:**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ that God will \_\_\_\_\_ of any sin and \_\_\_\_\_ the way forward.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

- Psalm 139:23-24

- 2) Intentionally and purposefully \_\_\_\_\_ to the minority community all around us.

<sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." <sup>10</sup> And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup> And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

- Romans 15:5-12

- 3) Seek \_\_\_\_\_, not just \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

- 1 Cor 12:12-14

- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ through meaningful \_\_\_\_\_ and worthwhile \_\_\_\_\_ (Bible first, good books second) and spend less time on \_\_\_\_\_.