

Over the past few months there has been a public debate on numerous issues that has often become explosive in nature, as the various sides disagree with a fervor that at times has threatened to become violent. These issues aren't just small issues of opinion but are big questions of how we view our world, and the question has become most explosive when people debate what we should teach our children regarding these issues. While there are numerous issues being fought over in our culture, the one that has become more prominent over the past months is the teaching of critical race theory.

We have to ask, what is critical race theory, and as a follower of Jesus, how should we view it and respond to it? Many Christians hear the cacophony of the debate but have a little understanding of the issues. Since we live in a democracy where we have opportunity to have a voice and a vote that influences the direction of the country, it is unwise to be uninformed on these issues.

However, as we seek to be informed on contemporary issues, we should also be careful in choosing the sources of our information. Unfortunately, far too many Christians look to the secular media as their primary, or even exclusive source of information. As a result, we often take sides based on the political leanings of our media of choice based on political arguments and reasoning. As followers of Jesus Christ, our beliefs and opinions about any major question in our culture shouldn't be based on the wisdom of the culture, or the ideas of a political party, but on an understanding and application of God's truth to that question.

While my view on many issues may be more in line with the positions of one party or the other, it is important to state that the reason for this should never be my commitment to the values of that political party. Instead, it should be my commitment to biblical truth, and the fact that on that particular issue, the political party's position happens to be most in line with God's truth. I'm reminded of the angel's words to Joshua before the battle of Jericho in Joshua 5. When Joshua saw him, he asked, "*Are you for us, or for our adversaries?*" The angel responded, "*No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.*" When we think of the political debates of our time, the question should never be, "whose side is God on." The question should always be, "Am I sure that I'm on God's side."

Now there are some who might be asking, "what exactly is critical race theory." Let me try to give what I will acknowledge is an extremely simplistic introduction and evaluation. It is a theory and worldview that has grown out of Marxism and Postmodernism. Critical theory sees the world in terms of power dynamics. This worldview sees all social evils, from crime, to poverty, to oppression not as a result of sin, but as the result of those who hold positions of power using their power by establishing systems that to keep their power and privilege, and to continue to oppress those out of power. Critical theory sees members of those in the oppressed group as being morally right (regardless of their actions) and members of the oppressor group as morally wrong. While there are several variations of critical theory, the one that is being most discussed now is critical race theory. This sees race as the main power dynamic.

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(from the Pastor)

Now how should we evaluate these ideas from a Biblical worldview? One the one hand critical theory raises legitimate concerns about oppression. The Bible says much about the evils of oppression, and as followers of Jesus, we should be very concerned about this problem in our culture. Because of this proper emphasis on concern for the oppressed and the potential misuse of power, many Christians are being led supporting the movement. However, they are failing to evaluate the other beliefs of the movement by Biblical truth. It denies Biblical truth of foundational issues like the nature of mankind, original sin, forgiveness, and salvation.

First, critical race theory disagrees with the Bible's teaching about the essential nature of who we are. It teaches that the most essential thing about us is our race, and where we fit into various categories of oppression. We are the racial group we belong to, which defines our social role as either oppressor or oppressed. The Bible teaches that the most essential thing about us is the fact that we were created in God's image, and therefore we all have incredible value as an image bearer of God. That is the universal truth that should unite all humanity. While critical race theory seeks to elevate racial distinctions and divisions, the gospel properly understood destroys them. Colossians 3:10-11 teaches that through the gospel we put on a new self, that is "*renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*" It continues, "*Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.*"

It also diverges from the Bible's teaching on the understanding of sin, and what's wrong with the human condition. The brokenness of humanity isn't rooted in the problem of sin, which is first and foremost our rejection of God's authority. Instead, is it a problem of oppression of one group against another. This problem of oppression isn't primarily personal but is systemic. So, everyone in the group of oppressors is guilty, and everyone in the group of oppressed is innocent.

We shouldn't be surprised that a flawed and unbiblical view of sin results in a flawed and unbiblical view of salvation. According to critical race theory, there is no real forgiveness and no ultimate salvation. Those in the oppressor group can gain some acceptance by accepting this worldview and admitting their guilt. But there is no ultimate forgiveness for the guilty or healing for the oppressed. The process is perpetual.

The proclaimed goal of critical race theory is to end oppression, but it offers no hope for actually doing that. All it does is tear things down, with no strategy or hope of offering or building something better. Its advocates cannot offer a vision of the world in which this sin is defeated or redeemed, much less one in which the guilty are forgiven and restored. The best that can be hoped for is to remove one group of oppressive powers and replace it with another.

As I said before, I acknowledge that this is a very simple summary of a complex question. I want to encourage you to be intentional in seeking a deeper Biblical perspective on this issue, as well as other questions that are being debated in our culture. If you want to go deeper on this issue, let me recommend the book "***Fault Line; The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe***" by Voddie Baucham.

To stay on top of this and other issues, I encourage you to find some source of news from a Christian worldview perspective. Let me recommend a few. First, is the podcast "**BreakPoint**" from the Colson Center. It is a 5-minute daily commentary addressing a contemporary issue facing us today from a Christian world view. The podcast is available on any podcast app. You can also find their material in print at their website, which is www.breakpoint.org. Another great source is World News Group. They have a daily 30-minute podcast that is an audio news magazine called "**The World and Everything in it**". If you like to read old fashioned print, they also have a bi-weekly magazine called "World" that is excellent. You can see all that they have at their website, www.wng.org

-Pastor Mike



Pregnancy SOLUTIONS

MISSIONS AND PRAYER

This month we'll be highlighting Pregnancy Solutions, celebrating their 25th year. The following are excerpts from their brochure.

"In 1996, Pregnancy Solutions was started by Sylvia and Steve Slifko, with the hopes and prayers to save the unborn from abortion and to lead men & women to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

On day one, this was our mission and, it is still the mission on day 9,125....

Would you take a moment with me and thank the Lord for His faithfulness, His protection, His grace and His mercy that He has lavished upon this life-giving ministry.

Just this week a client shared something with a staff member as she talked about her past abortion. The client said, "Before my abortion, I just wish someone would have tried to stop me."

For 25 years, we continue to try to be that voice in the life of someone pursuing an abortion. And for those who choose to parent, we continue to offer many options to equip and love them to Christ and become the best parent possible."

Since 1996 Pregnancy has accomplished 10,856 pregnancy tests given. Every pregnancy test provides a conversation. They have performed 9,836 ultrasounds. They have served 15,495 clients. Every client has a story. 2,956 babies have been saved. Every baby saved is a miracle. There have been 721 professions of faith. Every salvation is a soul saved forever.

"In June Brett Faris, Executive Director of Pregnancy Solutions, was invited to testify before the Ohio Senate Government Oversight and Reform committee in support of the SB157, more commonly known as the Born Alive Abortion Survivor's Protection Act.....

We can all play a part in helping promote a pro-life agenda with our local, state, and federal government. They are listening so it is time to speak up. Please take time to write, email, or call your local, state, and federal representatives.... Let your voice be heard."

Thanks to your support and prayers, we have the privilege of partnering with Pregnancy Solutions to help save babies' lives and see people come to salvation through Jesus Christ.

Brett will be here at CCPL with their mobile unit at our Mission Fair in October again this year. Please take time to greet him.

As always, please continue to pray for all our missionary partners and mission agencies.

Save The Date! The CCPL Mission Fair will be Sunday, October 10. More details to come later.

Don Hutchison



Encore Ministry

Growing in the transitions of life after fifty!

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

One of the most common questions of the Christian life is this: how do I know God’s will for my life? It’s a very important question. As Christ-followers we want to be obedient. We know that God has a plan for each of us and we know that His plan is for our good. So why doesn’t God just write out His plan so we can dive in? And what are we supposed to do until He reveals His plan?

It can be easy to slip into a never-ending holding pattern thinking, *“I’ll just stay right here until I get a very clear direction from God. Preferably in writing!”* When we stand still it’s often out of fear. (Or if I’m being really honest, I stand still because I’ve heard something I don’t like the sound of so what I’m really doing is waiting to hear God say something else that I might like better.) But time and again in the Bible we see God telling people to start moving and His plan will be revealed along the way. When God called Abram in Genesis 12 He said, “go to the land that I will show you.” He doesn’t tell him his destination until later.

So how do we start walking? Some time ago I read that when they launched the space shuttle the navigation system didn’t kick in until it left the earth’s atmosphere. Why? Because there was nowhere to go but up! Until the space shuttle entered an orbit they didn’t need to direct it because there is only one way it could go. That was up!

It’s the same for us. If we do the basic things God has asked us to do, we can be sure we’re headed in a good direction. Galatians 5:22-23 (above) lists the fruit of the spirit. If we are actively pursuing love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control and asking God to develop these things in our lives, we can’t go wrong. You will be headed in the right direction. As you are walking God will continue to reveal His plans for you.

My good friend and mentor Derric Johnson says *“God uses what’s in your hands to get to what’s in your heart.”* So, if you are wondering what God’s will for your life is, look at what you have in your hands. Are you an excellent financial planner? Do you love to sell? Are you really good at making people feel welcome? Do you have a great voice? Take the things that are in your hands and look for a way to use them for God.

God created each of us specifically for the good works He planned in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that God had a plan for us before we were even born. So, ask God to show you how to use what you have. Pursue the fruit of the spirit in your life and you can rest assured that you are pursuing God’s will for your life. Walk forward in confidence. He will show you where to belong. There’s nowhere to go but up!

Father, give me the courage to start walking. Remind me that You will come with me and that You know the way, even when I can’t see it. Amen.

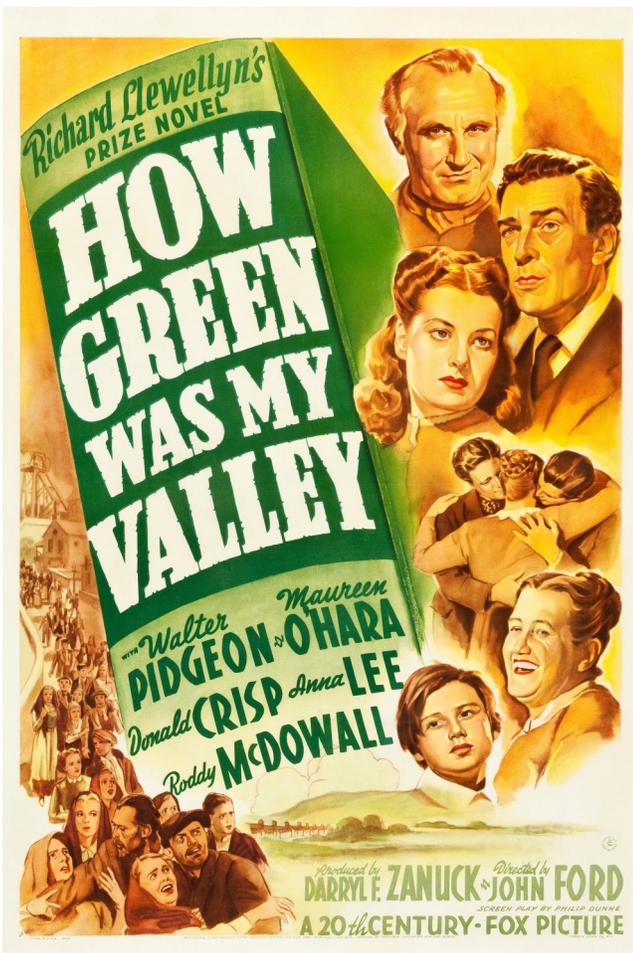
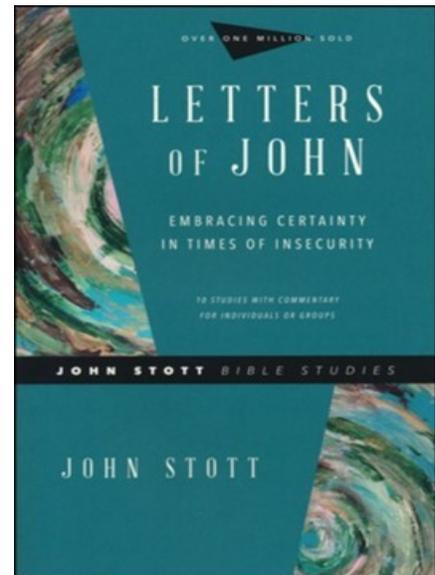


Encore Ministry
Growing in the transitions of life after fifty!

Wednesday September 22nd
10am/chapel

We will begin a 9 week study ; We will be using LifeGuide Bible Study book titled "Letters of John: Embracing Certainty In Times of Insecurity" by John Stott, Dale and Sandy Larson.

Cost of the book will be \$5



Encore Movie Matinee is starting back up again on **Thursday August 19th** **1pm/Chapel** "How Green is My Valley" starring Walter Pidgeon and Maureen O'Hara. At the turn of the century in a Welsh mining village, the Morgan's... he's stern, she's gentle, raise coal-mining sons and hope their youngest will find a better life.



Online Giving Change

We are in the process of moving our online giving to a new provider. The new service will have significantly lower processing fees, meaning more of your gift will go to supporting our ministry.

Our new system is up and running, so please begin using it for your online donations. Our old giving system is still accessible in case you need to change any recurring gifts. **August 29 will be the last day our old system is accessible.**

For even lower fees, please consider giving via bank transfer. Fees for ACH bank transfer donations are now a flat \$0.25, no matter the size of the gift.

As always, you can give online at www.CCPL.life/give

CCPL Library News

I just purchased "How To Break A Stubborn Habit" (Paperback). I know I have a few of those and I suspect most of us do! This is written by Erwin Luther.

Another new purchase is "The Natural Medicine Handbook" written by Walt Larimore, MD, a longtime Christian physician. This answers questions about the validity of some the holistic products: what works and what doesn't.

If you want to check it out, and you don't see it, leave your name and phone or text me at 330-926-7742 and I will let you know when the item is returned and save it for you



WHEELS NIGHT!!

August 5th, 6:30pm

BRING BIKES, TRIKES, WAGONS AND ALL THINGS WITH WHEELS TO OUR PARKING LOT! KIDS ARE ALSO INVITED TO DECORATE THEIR BIKES FOR A PARADE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE AT 7:30PM. JOIN US FOR FAMILY FUN AND ICE CREAM!



2021 CCPL Women's Conference

WEEKEND IN PARIS

Friday, September 24th // 7pm

Saturday, September 25th // 8:30am

Event Cost - \$40 for both nights; \$30 for Saturday only

Registration begins on Sunday, August 29th

both online and in the church lobby

Don't delay – the first 20 people to register will receive a

20% discount!!

Any questions – please contact Kelly Twiddy

at chloesmimi12@gmail.com

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Spa Night

AUGUST 13TH



August 13, 2021 / 6:30-8:30pm
Community Church

Relax, Be Pampered, Connect

LADIES FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Tuesday Mornings How to be a Disciple and How to make Disciples Join us as we explore these topics, and equip ourselves to make Disciples! September 21, 2021 930am//Chapel	Monday Nights The Book of Exodus: Where are you in your wilderness? Women Studying the Bible through the Book of Exodus September 13, 2021 630pm//Chapel
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AUGUST

BIRTHDAYS

Eric Bacher	2	Ben Brunty	15
Matthew Bradford	2	Gary Graber	15
Jimmy Holmgren	2	Patti Morvai	15
Cathy Butler	3	Helen Thigpen	17
Sunda Papp	4	Jessica Krege	20
Lee Barnes	5	Joyce Nine	20
Ethan Sulek	6	Gloria Rogers	21
Amy Miller	7	Beth Adam	22
Sebastian Wallis	7	Denny Martin	25
Gretta Weaver	9	Chris Wokaty	25
Ivan Webster	9	Denise Snyder	26
John Bauer	10	John Tummel	27
Madyson Vollmer	10	Glenn George	28
Kathie Oden	11	Fred Hoppstock	29
Haley Dalton	12	Veronica Kline	30
Sophie Grunwald	14	Kathy Traster	30
Jeannie Taylor	14	Rose Radonich	31



Dennis & Diane Baston	8/4/1979	Don & Katie Butcher	8/10/1956
PJ & Donna Rowe	8/6/1994	Don & Cynthia Burdette	8/10/1987
Max & Rachel Connelly	8/9/2014	Nick & Nancy Robeson	8/13/1971
Debbie & Jeff Allen	8/9/1980	Randy & Casey Roscoe	8/14/1999
		Jason & Janene Eplin	8/19/1989
		Keith & Margaret Starcher	8/19/1972
		Chip & Penny Sellers	8/20/1988
		Chuck & Nancy Banwart	8/21/1976
		Grant & Chris Conzaman	8/23/1969
		Gary & Rita Graber	8/28/1982

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 9:15 AM First Service 9:15 AM Sunday School & Community Groups 11:00 AM Children's Wor/Community Groups 11:00 AM Second Service 12:30 PM College & Career Sunday Grub 6:00 PM College & Career Summer Stories	2 10:00 AM Youth Sr & Jr Breakfast 11:30 AM Prayers & Stamping 12:30 PM Ladies Prayer Group 1:00 PM Sister's In Christ Bible Study 6:30 PM Young Married Class	3 6:30 AM Men's Study 6:30 PM Mission Board	4 6:00 PM Youth Mini Golf 7:00 PM Men's Basketball	5 6:30 PM Kids Wheels Night 7:00 PM Galvanized Group 7:00 PM Youth MS Backyard Bible Study	6	7
8 9:15 AM First Service 9:15 AM Sunday School & Community Groups 10:15 AM Meet & Greet 11:00 AM Children's Wor/Community Groups 11:00 AM Second Service 12:30 PM Meet & Greet 12:30 PM MFL Meeting 12:45 PM College & Career Beach Day 7:00 PM Youth Bonfire	9 12:30 PM Ladies Prayer Group 1:00 PM Sister's In Christ Bible Study 6:30 PM Young Married Class	10 6:30 AM Men's Study 6:00 PM Elder Board Meeting	11 7:00 PM Men's Basketball	12 7:00 PM Galvanized Group 7:00 PM Youth HS Backyard Bible Study	13 6:00 PM Ladies Spa Night	14 12:00 PM Encore Luncheon 1:00 PM Men's Golf Outing
15 9:15 AM First Service 9:15 AM Sunday School & Community Groups 11:00 AM Children's Wor/Community Groups 11:00 AM Second Service	16 12:30 PM Ladies Prayer Group 1:00 PM Sister's In Christ Bible Study	17 6:30 AM Men's Study 6:30 PM Women's Ministry Board	18 7:00 PM Men's Basketball	19 1:00 PM Encore Movie Matinee 7:00 PM Galvanized Group	20	21
22 9:15 AM First Service 9:15 AM Sunday School & Community Groups 11:00 AM Children's Wor/Community Groups 11:00 AM Second Service	23 12:30 PM Ladies Prayer Group 1:00 PM Sister's In Christ Bible Study	24 6:30 AM Men's Study 6:00 PM Elder Board Meeting 6:30 PM JOMC Book Club	25 7:00 PM Men's Basketball	26 7:00 PM Galvanized Group	27	28
29 9:15 AM First Service 9:15 AM Sunday School & Community Groups 11:00 AM Children's Wor/Community Groups 11:00 AM Second Service	30 12:30 PM Ladies Prayer Group 1:00 PM Sister's In Christ Bible Study	31 6:30 AM Men's Study	1	2	3	4