

# Is “Social Justice” Biblical Justice? (Pt. 1)

## *Selected Scripture*

### I. A Functional Definition: What Does It Teach?

#### A. What It's Not

#### B. What It Is

##### 1. A Basic Definition

- **UCLA:** “CRT recognizes that racism is ingrained in the fabric and system of the American society. The individual racist need not exist to note that institutional racism is pervasive in the dominant culture. This is the analytical lens that CRT uses in examining existing power structures. CRT identifies that these power structures are based on white privilege and white supremacy which perpetuates the marginalization of people of color.”

##### 2. Key Vocabulary

# Key Vocabulary

## Justice

1. Biblical Justice: conformity to God's standard
  - Everyone is required to treat others in keeping with the God-given standard (Micah 6:8).
  - Authorities are required to treat everyone equally before the law in their decisions (Dt. 10:17).
2. Social Justice Movement: the destruction of oppressive systems and the redistribution of power and resources from the oppressors (the majority) to the oppressed (the minority) to achieve an equal outcome.

# Key Vocabulary

## **Racism**

1. Webster's: "The belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others."
2. Robin DiAngelo, a leading academic for CRT: "a far-reaching system that functions independently from the intentions or self-images of individual actors."

# Key Vocabulary

- **White privilege** – whites are born into a society balanced in their favor and therefore with advantages, prejudices, and assumptions that make them oppressors, whether they know it or not.
- **White supremacy** – anything that supports or promotes white privilege.
- **White fragility** – the inherent inability of a person in the majority to reasonably discuss race because of that person's privilege.
- **Standpoint epistemology** – the lived experience of those in the minority outweighs objective evidence and reason when discussing issues of oppression.
- **Woke (wokeness)** – being awake to systemic oppression and embracing the need for the redistribution of power from the oppressor to the oppressed.

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- I. A Functional Definition: What Does It Teach?
- II. Its Philosophical Formation: How Did It Develop?
  - A. Marxism (Communism)
  - B. The Critical Theory (Cultural Marxism)
  - C. The Critical Race Theory

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## *Selected Scripture*

- I. A Functional Definition: What Does It Teach?
- II. Its Philosophical Formation: How Did It Develop?
- III. The Spiritual Foundations: What Is Its Source?
  - A. The Residual Image of God and a Desire for Justice (Gen. 1:26-27)
  - B. A National Sense of Guilt for Slavery (Neh. 9; Dan. 9)
  - C. A Sinful Distortion of Biblical Justice (Gen. 18:22-26, 32; Ezek. 18; Rom. 2:6)
    1. We are not personally guilty because we belong to a culture where certain sins predominate (Gen. 18:22-26, 32).
    2. We are not personally guilty because our ancestors sinned (Ezek. 18:1-4, 19-20).
    3. We will be judged by God’s standard of justice (Rom. 2:6).

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  - D. A Theological Rejection of Radical Human Depravity (Mk. 7:14-23; Rom. 3:10-18; Titus 3:3-8)
    1. The real location of racism is not in society or a political or economic system but every fallen human heart (Mk. 7:14-23).
    2. The real cause of racism is radical human depravity (Rom. 3:10-18).
    3. The primary sin behind racism is hatred, which is endemic to the fallen heart (Titus 3:3).
    4. The only permanent solution to racism is individual conversion (Titus 3:4-8).