Does Christianity Promote or Prevent Justice?

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The Ambassadors Forum
Oct. 8-9, 2021
CHRISTIANITY PREVENTS JUSTICE
CHRISTIANITY PROMOTES JUSTICE
Does Christianity Promote or Prevent Justice?

• Definitions
  • What is justice?
  • What is oppression?
  • Implications

• Thinking About Race
• Thinking About Gender
• Advice for Dialogue
Biblical Justice

Biblical justice is “giving to each person what they are due”

- Protecting the vulnerable: “Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.” – Is. 1:17

- Judging impartially: “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor.” – Lev. 19:15

- Punishing evil: ”Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain.” – Rom. 13:3-4
Critical Social Justice

“Social justice [is] the elimination of all forms of social oppression”

“Prior to celebrating diversity, we must first eliminate intolerance. No matter what form it takes or who does it, we must all take action to stop intolerance when it happens. Working towards a celebration of diversity implies working for social justice – the elimination of all forms of social oppression... Social injustice takes many forms. It can be injustice based on a person’s gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, or economic class.” – Mary McClintock, “How to Interrupt Oppressive Behavior,” Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, p. 483
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Oppression defined biblically

Oppression refers to “prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control.”

- “And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.” – Ex. 3:9
- “If you see in a province the oppression of the poor and the violation of justice and righteousness, do not be amazed at the matter, for the high official is watched by a higher, and there are yet higher ones over them.” – Ecc. 9:14
- “But you have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence.”” – Jer. 2:17
Oppression defined by CSJ

Oppression refers to “ideological domination and hegemonic power.”

“oppression also traditionally carries a strong connotation of conquest and colonial domination... New left social movements of the 1960s and 1970s, however, shifted the meaning of the concept of oppression. In its new usage, oppression designates the disadvantage and injustice some people suffer not because a tyrannical power coerces them, but because of the everyday practices of a well-intentioned liberal society... Oppression in this sense is structural, rather than the result of a few people’s choices or policies. Its causes are embedded in unquestioned norms, habits, and symbols.” – Iris Young, “Five Faces of Oppression,” Readings for Diversity and Social Justice, p. 36

“Marcuse’s notions of ‘one dimensional thought’...complements the critical theory tradition to better understand how hegemony, as cultural domination, normalizes and sustains the political/economic power of particular historic blocs – the ruling coalition of economic, political and cultural elites” – Lauren Langman, “From Domination to Liberation: Marcuse, Gramsci, and a Critical Theory of Social Mobilization”, p.14, Conference Papers – American Sociological Association.
Oppression defined by CSJ

Oppression refers to “ideological domination and hegemonic power.”

“Ideology – the received wisdom – makes current social arrangements seem fair and natural. **Those in power sleep well at night; their conduct does not seem to them like oppression**” – Richard Delgado, “Storytelling for Oppositionists and Others”; in *Critical Race Theory*, pp 71-72

“This new ideology [of color-blind racism] has become a formidable political tool for the maintenance of the racial order... **the beauty of this new ideology is that it aids in the maintenance of white privilege without fanfare, without naming those who it subjects and those who it rewards.**” Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, *Racism Without Racists*, p. 3-4
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Almost everyone is oppressed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Identity Categories</th>
<th>Privileged Social Groups</th>
<th>Border Social Groups</th>
<th>Targeted Social Groups</th>
<th>Ism</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White People</td>
<td>Biracial People</td>
<td>Asian, Black, Latino, Native People</td>
<td>Racism</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(White/Latino, Black, Asian)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Bio Men</td>
<td>Transsexual, Intersex People</td>
<td>Bio Women</td>
<td>Sexism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Gender Conforming Bio Men And Women</td>
<td>Gender Ambiguous Bio Men and Women</td>
<td>Transgender, Genderqueer, Intersex People</td>
<td>Transgender Oppression</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual Orientation</td>
<td>Heterosexual People</td>
<td>Bisexual People</td>
<td>Lesbians, Gay Men</td>
<td>Heterosexism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Rich, Upper Class People</td>
<td>Middle Class People</td>
<td>Working Class, Poor People</td>
<td>Classism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability/Disability</td>
<td>Temporarily Abled-Bodied People</td>
<td>People with Temporary Disabilities</td>
<td>People with Disabilities</td>
<td>Ableism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Protestants</td>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>Jews, Muslims, Hindus</td>
<td>Religious Oppression</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(historically)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>Young Adults</td>
<td>Elders, Young People</td>
<td>Ageism/Adultism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Adams et al, Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice, Appendix C
Children are Oppressed

"People are just beginning to have a glimpse of what oppression based on age involves... Children are ... being considered helpless, dependent, and cute - creatures to be cherished and taken care of but not full human beings to be deeply respected... and trusted with significant power. They experience 10-15 years of unpaid labor and brainwashing in our current form of education." - Blood, Tuttle, and Lakey in "Race, Class, and Gender", p. 140
Whiteness is child abuse

“Thandeka (1999) argues that raising White children to be White is a form of child abuse because ‘the child learns to silence and then deny its own resonant feelings towards racially proscribed others, not because it wishes to become White, but because it wishes to remain within the community this is quite literally its life’ (p. 24)... If Whites are reared in this manner, then emotional and psychological damage on the White psyche results...we hope to offer a new approach to racial healing by affirming Thandeka’s (1999) postulation of Whiteness as a form of child abuse and tracing what happens when that abuse goes unchecked”

“No consensus criteria for assigning sex at birth”

Though the two executive orders signed by Noem do not explicitly mention transgender athletes, they reference the supposed harms of the participation of "males" in women's athletics -- an echo of the transphobic claim, cited in other similar legislative initiatives, that transgender women are not women. The orders also reference "biological sex," a disputed term that refers to the sex as listed on students' original birth certificates.

It's not possible to know a person's gender identity at birth, and there is no consensus criteria for assigning sex at birth.
FACT TWO: Trans athletes do not have an unfair advantage in sports.

MYTH: Trans athletes’ physiological characteristics provide an unfair advantage over cis athletes.

Trans athletes vary in athletic ability just like cisgender athletes. In many states, the very same cis girls who have claimed that trans athletes have an “unfair” advantage have consistently performed as well as or better than transgender competitors.
“No unfair advantage”

### 800 Meters

**Boys** vs **Women**

2016 High School Boys NBNO Finalists vs 2016 Olympic Women's Finalists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Boys Time</th>
<th>Women Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1:49.36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>1:49.71</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>1:50.20</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>1:50.43</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>1:50.62</td>
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<td>6th</td>
<td>1:51.21</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>1:51.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>1:51.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>1:55.28</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>1:56.49</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>1:56.89</td>
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<td>12th</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>1:57.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>1:57.69</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>15th</td>
<td>1:59.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th</td>
<td>1:59.57</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

None of the women's finals performances met the qualifying time to enter the boys' competition.
“Justice” demands dismantling “oppressive” hierarchies

“Critical Race Theory works toward the end of eliminating racial oppression as part of the broader goal of ending all forms of oppression [including] oppression on grounds of gender, class, or sexual orientation... The interests of all people of color necessarily require not just adjustments within established hierarchies but a challenge to hierarchy itself” – Matsuda et al., Words That Wound, p. 6-7
CONCLUSION: Christianity promotes justice when justice is defined biblically.
Does Christianity Promote or Prevent Justice?

• Definitions

• Thinking About Race
  • Race as Social Construct
  • Race as Historical Tool of Oppression
  • Race and Identity
  • Race and Experience
  • Oppression and Phenomenology
  • Race versus Sexuality/Gender

• Thinking About Gender

• Advice for Dialogue
Race is a Social Construct

“he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” – Acts 17:26

“CRT also relies on Racial Realists, or individuals who not only recognize race as a social construct, but also realize that ‘racism is a means by which society allocates privilege and status.’” – Harper, Patten, and Wooden, *The Journal of Higher Education*, 2009
Race as Historical Tool of Oppression

“[Tenet 3] race has been constructed socially, much to the detriment of people of color.” - Hartlep, “Critical Race Theory: An Examination of its Past, Present, and Future Implications”
Identity in Christ is primary

“If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish” – Phil. 3:4-8
Experience is not homogeneous

“The continuing assumption of universal marginalization across every era of African-American history actually flattens the African-American experience and contributes to the increasing irrelevance of black preaching. What do I mean? The experience of African-Americans in 1830 could be fairly characteristic as near universal enslavement, oppression, and marginalization. Few would deny that. But how should we describe African-Americans in 1930?... Moreover, the 1930s seem like a lifetime ago for African-Americans born around 1980. The experience of 1980s-generation African-Americans is so different from previous generations that a burgeoning number of books dare to argue for a ‘post-Black’ self-understanding... Any monolithic understanding of black experience crumbled long ago under the shifting weight of African-American progress and hard-earned victories...” – Anyabwile, Reviving the Black Church, p.39-40
Oppression and privilege are contextual
Race, gender, and sexuality are not equivalent
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• Definitions
• Thinking About Race

• Thinking About Gender
  • Gender is a good, God-ordained category
  • Some, but not all, norms are social constructs
  • Some, but not all, norms are oppressive
  • Love does not require affirmation

• Advice for Dialogue
Gender is a God-ordained category

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” – Gen. 1:27

[Jesus said:] “But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” – Mark 10:5-9
Gender is a God-ordained category

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. **Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,** that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” – Eph. 5:32-39
Gender is good

“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” – Gen. 1:31

“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” – Rev. 21:2
Some, but not all, norms are social constructs

• Blue is for boys; pink is for girls
• Husbands should lead their families
• Men shouldn’t wear skirts
• Children should obey their parents
• Physical aggression is a masculine trait
• Boys like trucks; girls like dolls
• Only men should be pastors
• Hunting is a masculine activity; cooking is a feminine activity
Some, but not all, norms are oppressive

- Women shouldn’t be educated
- People shouldn’t walk around naked in public
- Men shouldn’t express emotion
- Widows should commit *sati*
- Children shouldn’t be left unsupervised
- A wife should take her husband’s last name
- Men shouldn’t have long hair
Love does not require affirmation

“You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him.” – Lev. 19:17

“Love takes no pleasure in evil, but rejoices in the truth” – 1 Cor. 13:6

“Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.” – Rev. 3:18-19
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  • Define your terms
  • Be charitable
  • Read broadly
DEFINE YOUR TERMS
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  • Read broadly
Be charitable

LET EVERY PERSON BE
QUICK TO HEAR,
SLOW TO SPEAK,
SLOW TO ANGER.

- JAMES 1:19 ESV -
Don’t be that guy

CONSERVATIVES

LITERALLY ANYTHING

IS THIS MARXISM?
Avoid labels

I think immigration laws should exist.

AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM is captive to CONSERVATIVE, FASCIST, WHITE SUPREMACIST, NATIONALIST ideologies that have more in common with the philosophy of AYN RAND than the teachings of Jesus!!!!
Avoid labels

I think immigration laws should exist.

**AMERICAN EVANGELICALISM** is captive to **CONSERVATIVE, FASCIST, WHITE SUPREMACIST, NATIONALIST** ideologies that have more in common with the philosophy of **AYN RAND** than the teachings of Jesus!!!!

I think affirmative action laws should exist.

**‘WOKE’ EVANGELICALISM** is captive to **PROGRESSIVE, SOCIALIST, THIRD-WAVE FEMINIST, GLOBALIST** ideologies that have more common with the philosophy of **KARL MARX** than the teachings of Jesus!!!!
Beware of polarization

Critical theory

Biblical orthodoxy

Civil religion

I think Christians should care about justice.

GO PEDDLE YOUR CULTURAL MARXISM SOME PLACE ELSE YOU AVOCADO TOAST-EATING SJW!!!!
Beware of polarization

Critical theory  Biblical orthodoxy  Civil religion

I won
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  • Define your terms
  • Be charitable
  • Read broadly
Read broadly

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Read broadly
Beyond Racial Gridlock, by Dr. George Yancey
Just Mercy, Bryan Stevenson
Fault Lines, by Voddie Baucham
The New Reformation, by Shai Linne
Pearcey’s *Love Thy Body*
Shrier’s *Irreversible Damage*
Walker’s God and The Transgender Debate

Andrew T. Walker

GOD and the TRANSGENDER DEBATE

What Does the Bible Actually Say About Gender Identity?

Foreword by R. Albert Mohler Jr.
Acknowledgements

Dr. Christina Shenvi

Dr. Pat Sawyer

• “Engaging Critical Theory and the Social Justice Movement” *Ratio Christi*
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