



Do Justice

“Taking Critical
Theory Captive”

4 R's

- Recognize
- Receive
- Reject
- Redeem



Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.



Acts 17:22-23

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you...



Recognize

- *“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit.”*
- What do I need to be aware of? How has this affected our world/me? In what ways do I need to “get above” it in order to have the ability to evaluate it instead of being controlled by it?



Receive

- *“according to Christ”*
- How is this noble/commendable? What overlap is there with Biblical truth? How does it bridge to the Gospel?



Reject

- *“philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world.”*
- What needs to be exposed, confronted, and outright denied? What errors need correcting? What lies are these ideas built on?



Redeem

- *“As I...observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you...” (Acts 17:23)*
- What opportunities do we have to present an attractive/persuasive contrast? How can we be light against the darkness? How might Christ be presented more clearly as the answer?



Recognize

- *“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit.”*
- What do I need to be aware of? How has this affected our world/me? In what ways do I need to “get above” it in order to have the ability to evaluate it instead of being controlled by it?



Receive

- *“according to Christ”*
- How is this noble/commendable? What overlap is there with Biblical truth? How does it bridge to the Gospel?



Receive

- Systemic injustices are real



Exodus 1:13-14

So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves.



Receive

- Systemic injustices are real
- Society exerts a powerful influence on the individual



Deuteronomy 7:1-5

When the LORD your God brings you into the land . . . and drives out before you many nations . . . make no treaty with them . . . for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods.



Receive

- Systemic injustices are real
- Society exerts a powerful influence on the individual
- Power can corrupt



Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?



Receive

- Systemic injustices are real
- Society exerts a powerful influence on the individual
- Power can corrupt
- Oppressed people groups need our help



Isaiah 58:6-7

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?



Receive

- Systemic injustices are real
- Society exerts a powerful influence on the individual
- Power can corrupt
- Oppressed people groups need our help
- The powerless & vulnerable need special attention



Deuteronomy 10:18

He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing.



Proverbs 31:8-9

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.



Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.



Psalm 82:3

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
maintain the right of the afflicted and the
destitute.



Reject

- The belief that we can never challenge someone's lived experience



Reject

- The belief that we can never challenge someone's lived experience
- The assumption that power and authority are inherently evil



Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.



Reject

- The belief that we can never challenge someone's lived experience
- The assumption that power and authority are inherently evil
- The belief that we are entirely a product of our culture



Psalm 139:13-14

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.



Romans 3:23

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,



Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.



John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.



Reject

- The belief that we can never challenge someone's lived experience
- The assumption that power and authority are inherently evil
- The belief that we are entirely a product of our culture
- The belief that moral asymmetry between groups is permissible



Leviticus 19:15

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.



1 Timothy 5:20

As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear.



James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers,
for you know that we who teach will be judged with
greater strictness.



Redeem

- *“As I...observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you...” (Acts 17:23)*
- What opportunities do we have to present an attractive/persuasive contrast? How can we be light against the darkness? How might Christ be presented more clearly as the answer?



Redeem

- A belief that the Bible holds answers, even when the vast majority of people hold an opposing view



2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.



2 Corinthians 10:5

We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ



Redeem

- A belief that the Bible holds answers, even when the vast majority of people hold an opposing view
- Christian charity



Redeem

- A belief that the Bible holds answers, even when the vast majority of people hold an opposing view
- Christian charity
- A right expression of the beauty of diversity



Revelation 7:9

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...



Redeem

- A belief that the Bible holds answers, even when the vast majority of people hold an opposing view
- Christian charity
- A right expression of the beauty of diversity
- An appropriate balance between the individual and the collective



Redeem

- A belief that the Bible holds answers, even when the vast majority of people hold an opposing view
- Christian charity
- A right expression of the beauty of diversity
- An appropriate balance between the individual and the collective
- A presentation of healthy authority



Matthew 20:25-28

But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



Philippians 2:5-8

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.



Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.



Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



2 Corinthians 4:16-18

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

