



# A CRITIQUE OF WOKE

A CHRISTIAN & LIBERAL CRITIQUE

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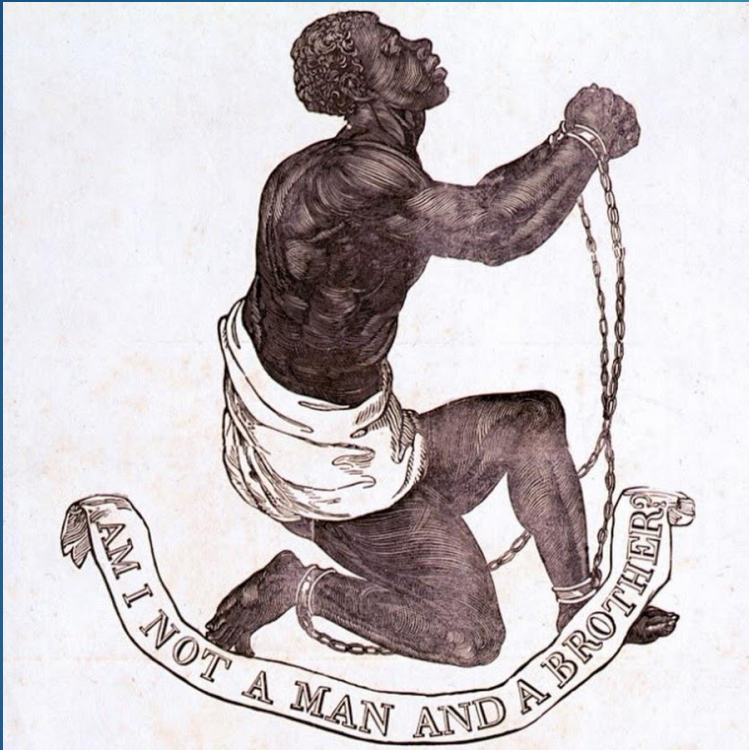
# Some Strengths of Woke



1. Recognition that oppression is evil.
2. Focus on groups rather than on individuals provides insight into how laws and institutions can promote sin.
3. Hegemonic power does exist and it can have an insidious effect on our norms and values.



## 2. Insight into how laws and institutions can promote sin



### 3. Recognition of hegemonic power





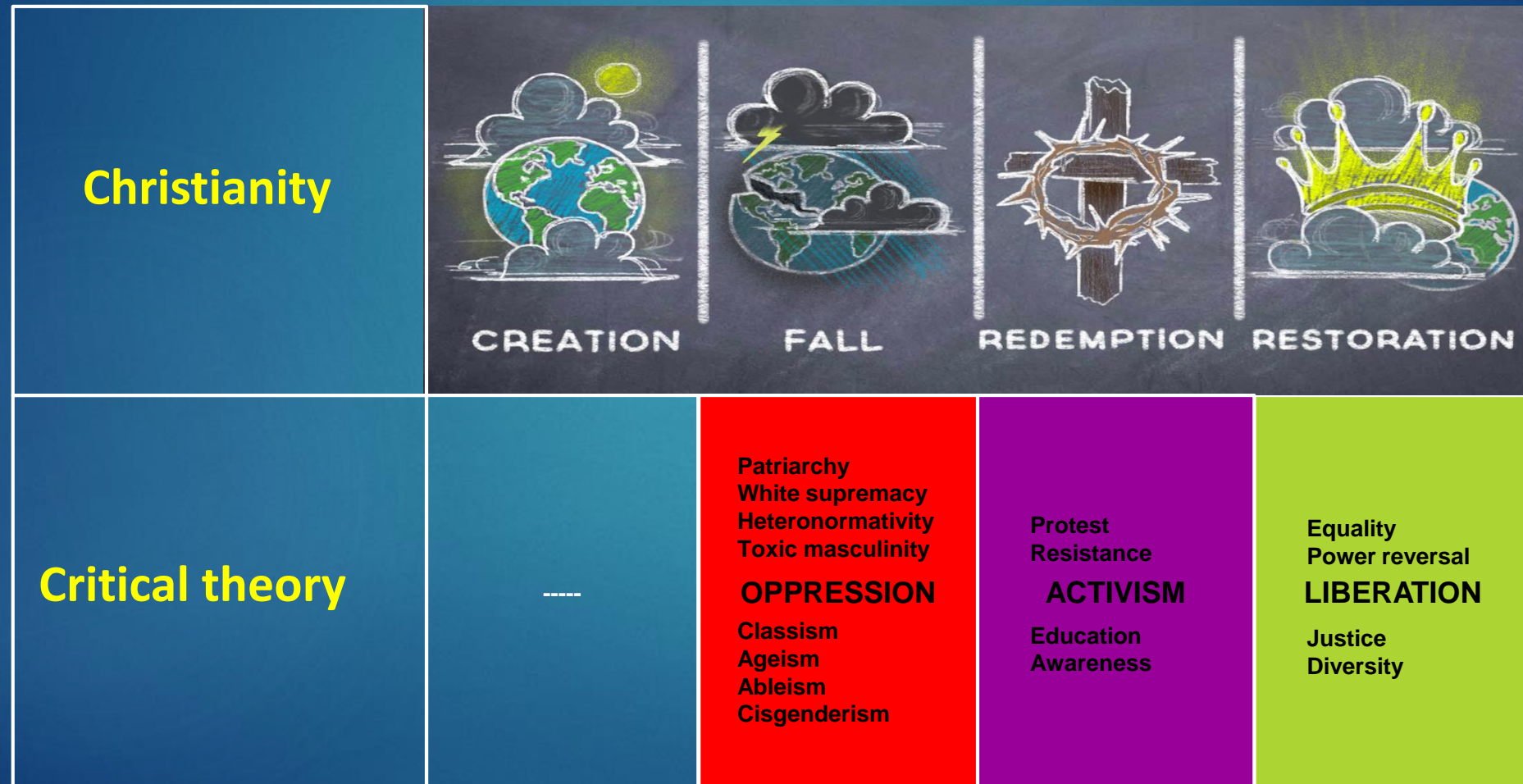
# Conflicts Between Critical Theory and Christianity

1. Is a worldview.
2. Difference in epistemology (how we know the truth)
3. Assumes an adversarial relationship between individuals
4. Is built on the rejection of hegemonic power.
5. Leads critical theorists to insist on a moral asymmetry between perceived 'oppressed' and 'oppressors'

# What is a worldview?

A worldview is a metanarrative, a lens through which we view and interpret all other evidence and all other claims.

# Christianity and critical theory are competing worldviews





# Conflicts Between Critical Theory and Christianity

	Christianity	Critical theory
Who are we?	God's creatures	Members of various groups
What is our problem?	Sin	Oppression
What is the solution?	Jesus	Liberation
What is our duty?	Loving God	Liberating the oppressed
What is our purpose?	Glorifying God	Working for liberation

# There is a difference in epistemology

When someone makes a truth claim, the first question asked is not:

- ▶ *is this claim true?*

But:

- ▶ *What incentives does this person have to make this claim?*
- ▶ *What social or political agenda motivates this statement?*
- ▶ *How does this statement function to preserve his power and privilege?*

# Bulverism

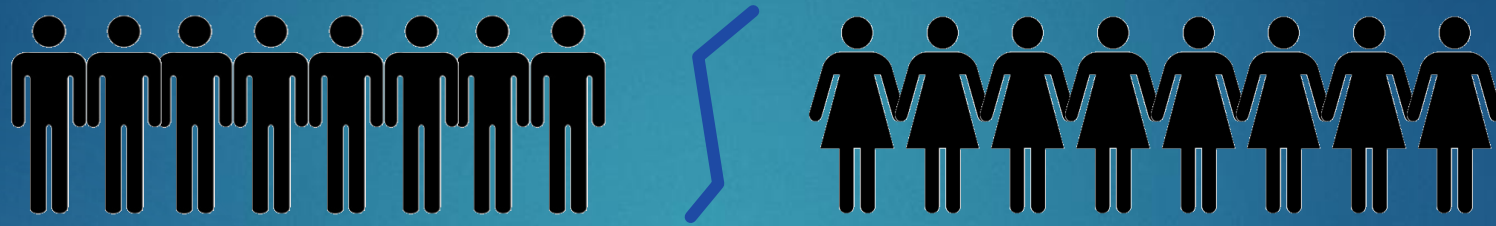




# Critical Theory undermines any appeal to the Bible

- ▶ Do you think that the Bible teaches that abortion is wrong? *That's because "you're trying to control women's bodies."*
- ▶ Do you think that the Bible teaches that homosexuality is a sin? *That's because "you're motivated by homophobia."*
- ▶ Do you think that the Bible teaches that husbands have the responsibility to lead their family? *That's because "you're trying to preserve male supremacy."*

# Adversarial relationship between individuals



Creation

Sin

Redemption

# The rejection of hegemonic power.

Neil Shenvi says, “...*the Bible is nothing but one giant, colossal hegemonic discourse from start to finish*”

- I. God has all the power in the universe.
- II. God has told the true story of reality in the Bible.
- III. That means there is one true story of religion, one true story of morality, one true story of sexuality, one true story of gender, and so forth.



# Moral asymmetry between 'oppressor' and 'oppressed'

- ▶ What is immoral behaviour for an individual from an oppressor group can be moral for an individual in an oppressed group.
  - ▶ Sarah Jeong
  - ▶ Zach Beauchamp

# Sarah Jeong

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@sarahjeong [Follow](#)

Dumbass f [REDACTED] white people marking up the internet with their opinions like dogs pissing on fire hydrants

8:41 PM - 28 Nov 2014

7 Retweets 25 Likes

5 7 25 <https://archive.is/byEMf>

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1) white men are b [REDACTED] t  
2) no one cares about women  
3) you can threaten anyone on the internet except cops

5:43 PM - 31 Dec 2014

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Are white people genetically predisposed to burn faster in the sun, thus logically being only fit to live underground like groveling goblins

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oh man it's kind of sick how much joy I get out of being cruel to old white men

6:20 PM - 24 Jul 2014

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# Moral asymmetry between 'oppressor' and 'oppressed'

- ▶ Individuals from different demographic groups should be held to different moral standards purely on the basis of their group identity is deeply unbiblical.
- ▶ Sin is not rooted in power dynamics, it is rooted in the violation of God's commands in thought, word, or deed.





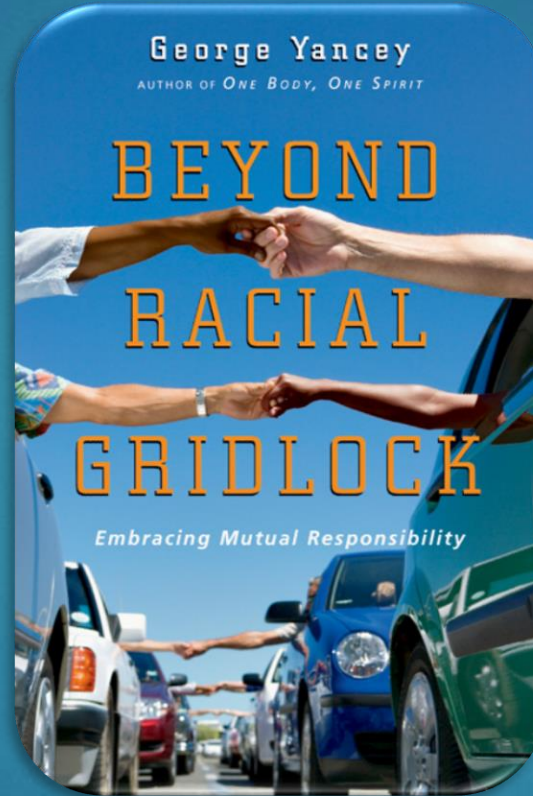
A worldview based on critical theory and a Christian worldview conflict not just with respect to a few isolated issues, but with respect to basic questions of epistemology, identity, power, and morality.

It is impossible to reconcile the two.

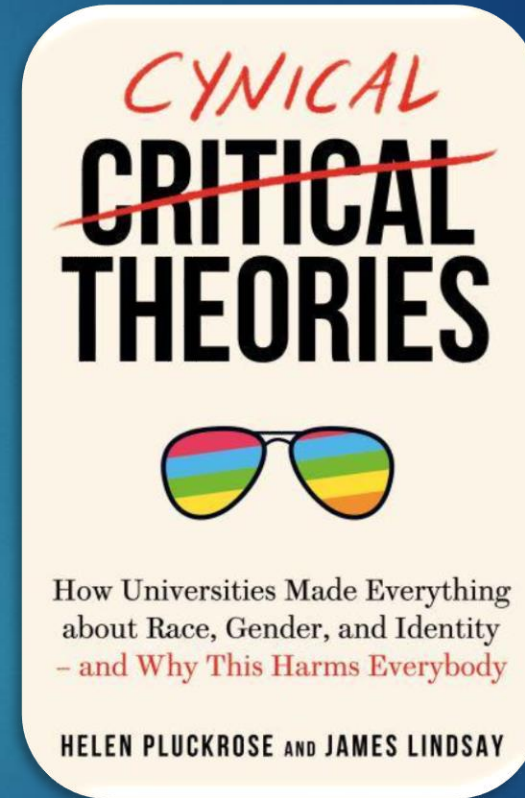
To the extent we adopt the premises of critical theory, we will have to abandon basic tenets of Christianity and vice versa.



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Beyond Racial Gridlock  
George Yancey



Cynical Theories  
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