A group of people holding a sign

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**The Christian and Critical Race Theory**

Critical Race Theory (CRT) seems to be everywhere – in politics, in education, even in conversations with neighbors and family. Some treat it like it’s the devil; others seem to think that only CRT will be enough to undo our long history with racism. But what is CRT? And how should Christians respond to it biblically?

**What is Critical Race Theory?**

***Why is CRT so hard to define?***

* CRT is a very technical worldview.
* CRT has become divisive and unpopular.
* CRT is a broad movement.

***The Academic Meaning***

* Critical Theory (CT) sees people as groups, not individuals.
* CT sees groups as either oppressed or oppressors.
* CT believes power is exerted by the oppressor throughout all facets of the culture – hegemony.
* CT argues that only the oppressed know what it means to be oppressed.
* CT seeks to liberate the oppressed by giving them power.
* CRT sees racism as prejudice plus power.
* CRT sees racism as built into the very institutions of America.
* CRT believes that unjust systems must be pulled down – deconstruction.

***The Popular Meaning***

* A concern to educate on the history of racism.
* A concern over the lingering effects of hundreds of years of racism.
* A concern over ongoing racism.

**The Threefold Christian Response**

***Some embrace CRT (Rasool Berry; Jemar Tisby).*** *“There’s a lot we can learn from CRT!”*

***Some look to affirm what they can, and critique what they must (David French, Al Mohler).*** *“There are some helpful observations in CRT, and when we push back we need to do so carefully and not reflexively.”*

***Some denounce CRT as dangerous (Neil Shenvi, Voddie Baucham).*** *“CRT might get a few things right, but our overall posture needs to be to warn about its dangers.”*

**The Biblical Perspective**

* We must beware the dangerous, empty, and deceptive philosophies of the world (Colossians 2:8).
* We must hold to the sufficiency of Scripture (2 Peter 1:3).
* We should as Christians listen to and empathize with those who have or are hurting (Romans 12:15; Proverbs 18:13).
* We must be sensitive to the injustice in America’s past and present (Isaiah 1:12-18).
* Children are not to pay for the sins of their parents (Ezekiel 18:20).
* As Christians our primary identity is in Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:27-28).
* Racial tension can ultimately be resolved only through the gospel (Ephesians 2:11-22).