



Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Aug 27, 2023
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Woke or Woke-ism

Text: “for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Ephesians 5:14

Target: Become awakened by the Holy Spirit to God’s righteous standard of holy living according to His word while being aware/activists to the injustices of humanity.

Icebreaker: Encourage everyone in your group to take 1 minute each and share “1 High & 1 Low” from their past week. Rejoice with those who rejoice! (Rom. 12:15) And bear one another’s burdens together (Gal. 6:2).

I. The Evolution of “Woke-ism”: Awareness or Agenda?

A. Language Matters:

1. **Origin of Definition:** A watchword that was 1st used in 1923 derived from African American Vernacular English (AAVE) towards racial prejudice and discrimination.
2. **Modified Definition:** Became inclusive of all forms of marginalized identities.
3. **Applied Definition:** Woke-ism became the all-encompassing word for all things considered politically liberal or progressive in belief or practice.

Question #1: Most political discussions are wisely approached with sensitivity because of their potential to create division, arguments, and hostility. *How can we apply verses such as Ephesians 4:32, 1 Corinthians 4:12-13, and Matthew 5:43-48 (Read these together) to discussions with those with different political views than us? How do we practice this approach while maintaining our Biblical convictions?*

- B. Objective Matters:** Ending Inequality and Injustice (This is the Unifier)
1. **God's Heart is for Justice:** *"The Lord is righteous; he loves righteous deeds"* (Psalm 11:7)
 2. **God's Heart is for Equality:** *"For you are all one in Christ."* (Gal. 3:28) *"For God shows no partiality."* (Romans 2:11)
 3. **God's Heart is for Diversity:** *"from every nation, all tribes, all peoples and languages standing before the throne and before the Lamb"* (Rev. 7:9)

Question #2: Despite our differences, ending inequality and injustice is where Christians undeniably come together. *How do we pursue this common objective alongside other believers we don't see eye to eye with? What dangers could come from failing to acknowledge or discuss our different opinions and convictions with one another?*

II. **The Error within "Woke-ism": Tolerance becomes the Gospel**

A. **Idealism within Woke-ism:**

1. **Critical Theory:** A philosophical approach that seeks to confront the historical, social, political, and ideological forces and structures that produce them or constrain them. (Oxford languages)
*Oppressor & Oppressed language *Intersectionality. *Repentance unto Oppressed
2. **Deconstructionism is the Goal:** Government (Communism or Democracy), Education (Government or Parents), Economy (Capitalism/Socialism), Religion (Secular or Divine Authority)

B. **Ideology within Woke-ism:** (Questions God's Designed Order)

1. **Relativism:** Rejection of Absolute, universal Truth, determined by experience.
2. **Secular Humanism:** You are the Moral Authority, especially the Oppressed.
3. **Postmodernism:** Truth is believed not discovered.

C. **Infiltration of Woke-ism:** 7 Pillars of Society: Religion, Family, Education, Government, Arts, Sciences, entertainment.

D. **Intolerance of Woke-ism:** To not celebrate, endorse the entire agenda is to be considered not to be WOKE at all. It is all or nothing.

Question #3: *How do the ideologies within Woke-ism contrast with a biblical world view of God's designed order? (See B above.) Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 together as a group. How can these verses assist you next time you hear ideas contrary to God's Word?*

- III. **The Entities considered under “Woke-ism”:** CRT-BLM Entity, Cultural Marxism, 1619 Project/ LGBTQIA/ Socialism/Genderism/Environmentalism/Political Extremism.

Question #4: Christians can easily see errors and deceptions within woke-ism and its associated entities when compared to Biblical truth. *Do you believe Christians are responsible for engaging these parties with Biblical truth or just knowing the truth for themselves? In any case, how do we “speak truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15) when in conversation with those outside the faith?*

- IV. **The Enlightenment towards “Woke-ism”:** *“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.” (Colossians 2:8)*
- A. **Biblical Worldview:** *All Scripture is God Breathed... (2 Tim. 3:16)*
 - B. **Spiritual Discernment:** *“so we may no longer be children tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (Eph. 4:14)*
 - C. **Gospel Perseverance:** *“BUT you, believe by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 20)*

Takeaway: *“Discernment is not just knowing right from wrong. It is knowing right from almost right.”*

Charles Spurgeon

Question #5: *In what ways can we “build up” our Biblical discernment and our ability to evaluate the current trends in our society? What other area of your faith could you spend time “building up” this week? How will you do that?*

Additional Resources on Right Now Media:

Kingdom Race Theology - Tony Evans

In this three-session series, Dr. Tony Evans will advocate for a Kingdom Race Theology, explain why it’s important, and discuss how the solutions to the issues we face today can be found by applying a biblical standard to the questions before us.

Truth and Love - Marquise Cox

You don’t have to choose between being loving or truthful—in Christ, we can do both.

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