



BE *the* BRIDGE

CRITICAL
RACE
THEORY

Executive Summary

Be the Bridge and Critical Race Theory

Our vision at Be the Bridge is that people and organizations are aware and responding to the racial brokenness and systemic injustice in our world. Our vision is that people are no longer conditioned and disciplined by a racialized society, but grounded in truth. As we discuss the utilization of various theories to make sense of our current racial reality, it is helpful to remember the core values that Be the Bridge holds. These include grace, humility, truth-telling, respect, repentance, biblical justice, and reconciliation with a greater vision of leading the church to be a credible witness for the gospel.

Recently, Critical Race Theory has emerged as a new criticism against the work of Be the Bridge and racial equity and is being used in an attempt to put a stumbling block in the organization's work toward racial justice and healing. We reject that CRT is our guiding framework. Instead, Be the Bridge was built around a Biblical worldview as is clear in our mission, vision, and values. We regret that some people are using a critique of CRT to discredit our Biblical and gospel-oriented fight against the system of white supremacy.

Critical Race Theory

In doing the work of racial justice, we pull in the scholarship of a wide variety of scholars, theologians, anthropologists, and sociologists. Amongst those are some critical race theorists. When we see scholarship speaking truth in ways that can lead us toward racial justice, we will utilize them.

It is also important to note that there is not a singular "critical race theory". Rather, critical theory is a form of scholarship that says we have to put current social realities in a historical, cultural, and ideological context in order to understand them. CRT arose from this line of thinking and

is a large and complex field of study spanning several disciplines from law to social sciences with an overarching theme of collective liberation, not just for those oppressed, but freedom from participating in oppression as well. These theorists had a variety of (sometimes contradictory) thoughts about race in America - but at the core of all their writings there is a shared understanding that for racism to flourish it does not require racist intent, white supremacy is a guiding ideology of the creation and formation of America, and needing to understand history to create a way forward where white supremacy is dismantled.

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Conclusion

We stand ready to give an account before God for the way we carried out His witness here on earth. We will continue to build on that solid rock, so whatever winds or rain come our way, we will stand firm. Because of that, we don't often respond to those who seek to tear down this good work, or deny this good fruit. Our utilization of critical race theory at times and in ways where it is not contradictory to the gospel should not be used as a way to criticize important work being done by the organization. We prefer to set our focus on the long road ahead of serving God's call in our lives as we continue the fight for racial justice. We are thankful for many organizations and people pursuing racial justice and reconciliation in whatever ways God has called them to do so. We pray they are faithful to that call and also devote their time to serving Jesus over disparaging the way other faithful saints serve Him.

Click more for a more in-depth breakdown of CRT and BTB

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