

The Psychological Manipulation of Critical Race Theory

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SPEAKERS

Sponsor: Samaritan Ministries, Host: David Wheaton, Program Director,

Featured Resource: In His Image, Katherine Kirsten



Host: David Wheaton 00:07

The psychological manipulation of Critical Race Theory. That is the topic we'll discuss today, this Independence Day weekend right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to share the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a nonprofit ministry. Thank you to our listeners for your encouragement and support. And also to our national sponsor, Samaritan Ministries, who provide a biblical solution to health care. You can find out about us and Samaritan Ministries at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. Now contrary to what the mainstream media, and some evangelicals are saying about Critical Race Theory, that it's a Boogeyman, in other words, that it's made up and nothing to fear, just keep moving along, Christians who are even paying half attention, know and see how this insidious ideology that pits whites against non whites is infiltrating every institution around the country. The government run public school system has become a flashpoint for heated confrontations between school boards, intent on instituting Critical Race Theory and parents pushing back on this racist, yes, racist and divisive worldview. One question, though, that has been little discussed is, how did Critical Race Theory become so widely accepted and promoted so quickly? In other words, how could such a blatantly wicked ideology be swallowed hook, line, and sinker by

so many people? Our guest to answer these questions is Katherine Kirsten. She's a writer, lawyer and Senior Policy fellow at the Center of the American Experiment. She has written extensively on Critical Race Theory, especially as it relates to the educational system here in Minnesota, which is likely taking place in your state as well. She's going to explain the psychological manipulation straight from the Marxist playbook that is being used to delude so many people. She will also rebut the false assertions about America that critical theorists use as a basis for their deception. Let's get straight to the first segment of the interview with Katherine Kirsten. Katherine, thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview Radio Program today to talk about Critical Race Theory. And you've written two excellent columns recently, which we have linked at our website, The ChristianWorldview.org. And the first is titled The Revolution in Minnesota Schools. And I just want to read the first paragraph where you say, today a revolution of sorts is underway in many Minnesota schools in the name of ending white supremacy and systemic racism. School districts are falling over themselves to promote a radical new vision of American society. The upside down thought world of, "Racial Equity" advances in the name of justice and harmony, yet its fundamental premise is deeply divisive. It teaches that life is a relentless power struggle, and splits human beings into two hostile camps, white and non white, labeling whites as perpetual oppressors, and bipoc, an acronym for black, indigenous, and people of color as perpetual victims. And you go on to give some examples of this going on in some of the local school districts. And let's just set the foundation by asking Catherine, where did this Critical Race Theory ideology come from? That white supremacy and systemic racism exists in our country? Again, systemic. That means it's all throughout the system that exists, and they need to be ended?

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Katherine Kirsten 03:59

The fundamental claim is absurd, right? This was a country that recently twice elected a black president, and now has a black vice president. We know that people like Oprah Winfrey and LeBron James are some of the highest earners in our nation and the most admired people. The initial premise is absurd. But this arose I think, at least in relatively recent historical memory, with the the rise of the new left in the student revolution, in the 1960s. I actually started college in 1969. And I remember this very well. But this was the the time when, because of student protests, etc., we saw more and more so called oppression studies, departments of black studies, women's studies, the kinds of departments that politicized higher education, starting at that time. Very, very much permeating over time, teachers, colleges. And now we have a whole generation, couple generations of people who have gone through the university and been exposed to this kind of oppression studies, racial identity, politics, and this way of thought is rooted in Neo Marxist Critical Theory. And that, of course, is the idea that used to be under Marx. The proletariat and the bourgeoisie were in this relentless zero sum power struggle. And that's what life is. It's

entirely about power with this mindset. But this is all built, I think, on that kind of ideological structure. And then you look at what's happened in our society with the racial learning gap, lawsuits about that, equity plans. None of this has really helped that much when it comes to some of the differences in the outcome that we've seen. So I think people are reacting to that, with our family breakdown with our secularization, there's this kind of growing communal vacuum of meaning and purpose. And many people are just kind of seduced into this simplistic way of explaining these very, very complex problems.

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Host: David Wheaton 06:19

Katherine Kirsten, with us today on The Christian Worldview Radio Program, Senior Policy fellow at the center of the American Experiment. The website is Americanexperiment.org. You know, one interesting thing that I think leaves people totally confused about Critical Race Theory is the fact that being colorblind, and you write in your column, racial equity advocates preach the opposite, not what Martin Luther King Jr. said about "Don't be judged on the color of their skin, but the content of their character," that's been discarded. Skin color, you're right, not personal character determines who a person is. Astonishingly, you're right. And seemingly overnight, Minnesota students are now being taught that Kings colorblind ideal is in fact, racist. How did that get jettison? The fact that to be colorblind is a virtue. How did that get jettison so quickly?

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Well, I think you could say that it's a kind of classical liberal idea based on the notion of equality. People have equal dignity rights. It's very fundamental Judeo Christian concepts, they are individuals, we must respect the dignity of all. That is very inconsistent with a NEO Marxist, Critical Race Theory point of view, which does see life as a simplistic kind of power struggle between oppressed and oppressors. These, again, these were historically the bourgeoisie, the sort of wealthier middle class people versus the proletariat, the working class. And in Marx's view, that approach to a kind of revolutionary transformation doesn't work in America. That was proved over many decades. This new approach, though, is sort of taking advantage of America's racial history. We all know that slavery existed. We inherited it from the British Empire. The British, again were among the first people to abolish slavery. Nevertheless, we had that in Jim Crow in our past and people understand that. But they know so little about American history, unfortunately, because our schools have been so remiss in teaching accurate American history for the last 40 years. That they're easily led astray on this, I think, and part of this is the rise of the new left's, "new speak." This is a term that George Orwell coined in 1984. And the idea is the left creates these morally loaded terms like systemic racism, or white fragility, let's have white supremacy, that these words are designed to confuse people and to make it really hard to

disagree. Because if you're not an anti racist, the way they define it, then of course, you're a racist, right? People are confused by the fact that these common sense words have now been redefined in subtle ways. And it has been very effective in confusing people in a way that advantages the left.

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Host: David Wheaton 09:29

You're right. Another word is tolerance. That used to be a word of the left that was respecting other viewpoints, even if you disagree with them. Different than affirmation, but tolerance is we can both live together even if we disagree. You write in your column teachers worry that refusal to give into this group think could cost them their job, Critical Race Theory, in District 197, which is in West St. Paul. And that area Superintendent, Peter Olson Skog, made the threat explicit. "If you think we're being too sensitive, to politically correct," he said, in a speech to staff, "I would encourage you to look elsewhere for employment as I do not believe that you will feel aligned with the difficult and uncomfortable work ahead." This is a new definition that not only colorblind is out the window, but so was being tolerant or actually being diverse in other viewpoints. So how did this one get jettisoned as well?

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Katherine Kirsten 10:32

It means the opposite of what it's common sense meaning is. Diverse now doesn't mean tolerance for different points of view. Everybody knows that what it really means is that if you dare to disagree, say in a teacher professional development, seminar, you will be declared a non person. You will be branded as a racist. These are techniques of emotional blackmail, that have been used very successfully by influencers of all kinds in the last couple centuries, basically weaponizing our natural fear of social isolation. The left pushes to the side using this morally loaded Newspeak you've been talking about, and letting people know that if they dare to disagree, they will be branded as bigots and racists, socially ostracized, perhaps losing their job, this is terrifying. And it's really something quite new in American history, but not when it comes to repressive regimes in other parts of the world.

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Host: David Wheaton 11:41

So what do you do about that? Is it just best for someone who dissents or disagrees to speak up and stand up and speak the truth? Is that the best way to do it no matter what the cost. What do you recommend?



Katherine Kirsten 11:52

You have to look at every situation individually, right? What are the stakes, etc.? I think that the first thing that we must do is basically educate everybody. Help them understand that they are being manipulated for reasons that benefit people who want to increase their power, and frankly, their financial bottom line. Just think of all the new diversity consultants who have been hired. All the new equity consultants in our schools. Some of these people are being paid unbelievable sums for a few hours of lecturing and hectoring teachers. So people need to understand number one, this language is being used to manipulate you. Number two, I think people need to band together. It's really hard to at least publicly stand up against some of this. But it's easier when you have a group of like minded people. And you don't just criticize, you know, "Critical race Theory or Black Lives Matter," and its influence in your schools. But you talk about what you're for, you know, you talk about Martin Luther King, you talk about the importance of our common humanity and the dignity of all human beings. You would say, you know, no matter what you say, I refuse to teach my children as you do, that people are determined by their skin color. I believe everyone is a unique individual and should be respected. You articulate what you believe. Frankly, just if we only taught the golden rule in our schools, nobody would be thinking about you know, all this sort of equity, re education, etc, all these new vocabulary words, etc. We wouldn't need to. It's common sense really.



Host: David Wheaton 13:55

It really is. Katherine Kirsten with us today on The Christian Worldview talking about the psychological manipulation of Critical Race Theory. We're gonna get into that manipulation in just a second here. She's a writer and an attorney, Senior Policy fellow at the center of The American Experiment. Their website is Americanexperiment.org. We have it linked in our website as well.



Program Director 14:14

The Christian Worldview with David Wheaton returns in just a moment.



Host: David Wheaton 14:18

David Wheaton here, volunteer host of The Christian Worldview Radio Program. Listeners are often surprised to learn that we as a ministry pay for airtime on the radio station, website, or app on what you hear the program. The primary way this expense is recouped is through listeners like you, donating to the ministry or becoming a monthly partner. Our aim is to have each broadcast outlet fully supported by the listeners to that outlet. If you

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Featured Resource: In His Image 15:18

I struggled with my identity all the way through my life, lived eight years as Laura Jensen, until I found the Lord Jesus Christ. . . The issues are unavoidable. . . They're on the news. . . The White House in rainbow colors. . . They're in our legislation. . . The Texas Bathroom Bill. . . In our schools. . . Drag queen story hour. . . They're even reaching into our churches. . . Let us be the church together. We're not just talking about issues, we're talking about people. The proceeding is from *In His Image*, a 103 minute documentary film that biblically and compassionately addresses the issue of transgenderism. You can order the DVD for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview, call 1-888-646-2233, or write to Box 401, Excelsior, Minnesota 55331, or visit TheChristianWorldview.org. That's TheChristianWorldview.org.

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Program Director 16:24

Welcome back to The Christian Worldview. Be sure to visit our website TheChristianWorldview.org, where you can subscribe to our free weekly email and annual print newsletter, order resources for adults and children, and support the ministry. Now back to today's program with host David Wheaton.

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Host: David Wheaton 16:41

I just want to ask one more question about how this has exploded so much before we get into how people are being manipulated and accepting it so quickly. You talk about George Floyd's death, or as some would say his murder, last year in May of 2020, as accelerating, as being the instigation point for all of a sudden this just exploding. You talk about going viral, we use that expression. It seems that that was a pivotal moment in our country. It happened right here in the Twin Cities in Minneapolis. Certainly there have been other police interactions that have gone wrong in Ferguson and different areas or places around the country. But why did that particular one seem to be the tipping point? Or maybe you don't think it was, but it seems to me to be a tipping point for the explosion of Critical Race Theory.

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Katherine Kirsten 17:32

COVID actually had a fair amount to do with that. People being so isolated, people being so kind of vulnerable, psychologically. I think when you combine that in these thought manipulation techniques that are being used, with the fact that Black Lives Matter was then, that the Global Fund was then in place and had a significant bank role which has become of course far more healthy let's say, since the Floyd incident, and then people on the left, who are agitators who do work through identity politics are waiting for the opportune moments, right? The guru of political organizing, Saul Alinsky, taught 50 years ago that you wait for the opportune moment. And then you you move in. When you combine that with the rise of social media, and woke capitalism, right, you've now got Delta Airlines and Coca Cola, Nike. Even I think five years ago, we wouldn't have seen them piling on. So you got this massive juggernaut of the media, entertainment, big business, etc., all kind of combining in this moment to force through this new mindset of systemic racism and white supremacy. And the teachers unions. Teacher's unions big time have supported this for a number of years. So all this stuff has been going on for at least 10 years. Well, longer than that, but this is, your right David, this was the crystallizing moment when you know that success was right around the corner for them.

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Host: David Wheaton 19:30

I have a little theory that money isn't the bottom line in life, that worldview or ideology is actually the bottom line in life. So you correct me if I'm wrong here though. Because why would big business, all these companies be falling over themselves donating to Black Lives Matter and being woke and so forth? Do they really think it's good for their bottom line? Is that what it is? Or is it truly that they ideologically agree with this worldview?

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Katherine Kirsten 19:58

I think it's both. Because bear in mind Howard Zinn's book on American history. He was a Marxist agitator. Basically that book, which was widespread in American High Schools was published first in 1980. That is 41 years ago, you know. So the American people have received a very poor and kind of misinformed education about our history for many years. And colleges just, you know, it ramped up in colleges over the last, well since the 60s. So the people running these corporations have been shaped by this adversary culture in many respects. But you know, there's a new book out called Walk Inc. Actually, I think it's coming out in August. But I heard the author of it speak recently, phenomenal book explaining the dynamics of big business, these sort of unholy alliance between big business, Silicon Valley, the big New York and sort of what hedge funds and all that with the Occupy Wall Street, remember that? When was that? Just like just a few years ago. And one of his points is that these big corporations can buy off the left, they can buy off

these very well financed left wing agitators to a good extent by kind of getting out in front of them with their PR and that kind of thing. And now BlackRock I've read is demanding that anyone who wants financing through them before a new venture must have a, "Diverse board that meets certain qualifications." This has nothing to do with maximizing shareholder profits, right, which is supposed to be what business is all about, and staying out of politics. But more and more, I think we see it as both an attempt to buy off the left, and because there's kind of a general sympathy for this adversary culture mindset on the part of people educated at elite universities.

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Host: David Wheaton 22:09

Katherine Kirsten, with us today on The Christian Worldview. We're talking about the psychological manipulation of Critical Race Theory. We want to get into that now. How it's been so quickly imbibed by so much of the country. Katherine is a senior policy fellow at The Center of the American Experiment. I just want to read a couple paragraphs because I think this sets up the manipulation you've been alluding to so far in our conversation. You say ideologues, striving to reshape students beliefs and your columns are really about the educational system, but it's more broadly being used on broader society, but trying to reshape students beliefs about the role of race in America have found, "Racial equity to be an ideal vehicle. It's a framework that skillfully plays on Americans desire to atone for the more reprehensible moments of our nation's racial history." And then you go into how these racial equity lessons how these destabilize a student's personal identity or a person's personal identity. You say that it conditions white children to question their ability to grasp reality, and to act as they intend in the world. It warns that they can take no pride in their accomplishments because they are merely a function of white privilege. It insists they routinely harm their non white classmates by committing micro aggressions of which they aren't even aware. It's a no win situation if they think they aren't racist, this just proves how racist they are. The message is that white skin is a source of self deception, guilt, and shame. It goes on from there. You go in your column to talk about black children, too, have it drummed into their heads that they lack self awareness and self agency as victims of white supremacy. They are told they bear no responsibility for their behavior and can't even meet minimal standards like turning in their assignments on time or thinking logically. They are constantly urged to feel anger and resentment. You go into teachers, how they're manipulated as well. They don't understand, the white teachers have no clue about, you know, how they're oppressing everyone and so forth. You finished by saying the goal of this manipulation is to convince students and teachers they must turn for guidance to their enlightened betters, activists who alone can see reality and understand justice if they are to atone for guilt, the whites, or avoid being dupes, the blacks. You said that so well. That jumped off the page to me as I read the column. Explain how this manipulation takes place.

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Katherine Kirsten 24:48

This again is another kind of Marxist concept of false consciousness, right? The vanguard, the you know, the Marxist elite thinkers, their idea originally under Lenin was that they truly understand the problem that the workers didn't understand they were being exploited. And they had to turn to these college educated, you know, brilliant self styled leaders, the Marxist Vanguard. in order to see that they were oppressed and you know what they needed to do to remove the oppressors. This is the very same concept that white kids are victims of false consciousness, they don't know that they really are not responsible for their own successes, black kids don't understand the extent to which they're oppressed. These are all techniques that are used by thought manipulators. And what really kind of clued me into this is sort of an underpinning of what we're seeing now, was that back in, I don't know, 2014 or so, these kinds of things, these types of racial curricula, etc., new race based rules were invading the the St. Paul school system. And I spoke with a teacher there named Aaron Benner, a black teacher, who was one of the few who had the courage to stand up before the St. Paul school board and say, "You are ruining children's lives with this supposedly empathetic new approach you are taking." And he told me afterwards that the professional development training he and other teachers were required to endure in St. Paul resembled indoctrination into a cult. And I've heard this over and over in recent years, from other teachers who have had to go through similar training. So people who are pulled into cults are manipulated through, you could say techniques of salesmanship and propaganda. And one of the most important, the first, is to destabilize this sense of self, so that these people question their own ability to make decisions and understand reality and look to self styled leaders. And that's what you're talking about here.

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Host: David Wheaton 27:17

You mentioned that first point in this manipulation that racial equity lessons destabilize a student's personal identity. That's what you just talked about. And you had one more point on this manipulation. You said point two is, ideologues introduced an alternate system of reality and restrict access to ideas that challenge it. Racial equity advocates make the assertion that America in 2020 is systemically racist. That's absurd on its face, you're right. Our nation recently had a two term black president and immigrants of all colors have flocked here and continue to do so, I might add. They found unparalleled opportunity and prosperity in this country. Activists use emotional blackmail to pressure students to buy into their ideology. Those who question it are denounced and shunned as racist. You mentioned that. While those who comply are praised as, "Allies," or on the right side of, "History." Thought reform is particularly effective when it is framed as a movement for an enlightened elite. And naysayers are repudiated as inferior. So explain just the second point a bit too, the social pressure to conform. Otherwise, you're just a non person, you're

on the wrong side of history.

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Katherine Kirsten 28:36

First, just the self doubt and confusion with this morally loaded language. If you don't agree with them, you're a bad person. And then they present this new way to understand reality. And that's where the terms like systemic racism, white supremacy, etc. come in. And people can be easily, especially when they're young, easily confused by this new lingo that they're hearing for the first time. So some of the fundamental concepts behind this new lingo are racial essentialism, meaning that your skin color determines who you are. There's a pressure to keep you from looking at alternative ways of thinking by branding you as a bigot, if you do so, and getting you to submerge your individual identity into a larger racial identity. And then to accept if you're white, collective guilt, right? You are responsible for what was done 400 years ago by some people who shared your skin color. And if you bring all these, these three kinds of techniques together, if you first undermine people's sense of self and their sense of moral agency, and then you introduce this new close to some of reality, and they can't even think about a question, that's what microaggressions are. You know, if you say, "No, I'm not guilty of this," then they say, "Oh, that proves even more how racist you are, because you don't even know that you're doing this." So that kind of techniques, turns kids away from alternative explanations for racial disparities of various kinds. And then the last is this emotional blackmail tactic. You see it, you see this, in some classrooms where kids are told to stand up if they disagree, and don't think that they're racist, or white supremacy is real. And this is like out of the Cultural Revolution in China, where people who have the guts to separate themselves are shamed that there's a kind of a figurative dunce hat put on their heads. So all those techniques working together can be very effective, and they are used in indoctrinating people into cults.

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Program Director 31:04

The Christian Worldview with David Wheaton returns in just a moment.

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Sponsor: Samaritan Ministries 31:08

Courtney was 17 weeks pregnant when she and her husband Greg learned that their son, Shepherd, had a heart condition that would require multiple surgeries and were uncertain about his future. But Samaritan Ministries connected them with other Samaritan members who began to pray and share the financial needs of the pregnancy and the medical care Shepherd needed. I don't know how Samaritan could have answered any differently on done any better. I don't know. And just to hear the confidence on the other end of the

phone of this is not something that you need to be concerned about at all. You focus on the health of your family, the health of your baby, and we will walk with you every step of the way. Thankfully, through God's faithfulness and provision, Shepherd is surpassing all of the doctor's expectations. To read more about this family's journey, and about how you can join a community of believers like them, visit Samaritanministries.org/tcw.

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Host: David Wheaton 32:08

David Wheaton here to tell you about a special offer on My Boy Ben. Ben was a Yellow Lab and inseparable companion back when I was competing in the pro tennis tour. I invite you to enter the story in it's tapestry of relationships with Ben and my aging parents, with a childhood friend I would eventually marry, and ultimately with God, whose gospel and grace caused all things, even the hard things to work together for good. Order a signed and personalized copy for yourself, or for a friend who loves dogs or someone you know who needs to hear about God's grace and the gospel. My Boy, Ben is owned by The Christian Worldview. It is 264 pages hardcover, and retails for \$18.99 plus shipping. For a limited time we are offering it for a donation of any amount to The Christian Worldview. Go to TheChristianWorldview.org or call 1-888-646-2233. That's The ChristianWorldview.org.

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Program Director 33:14

Thanks for joining us on The Christian Worldview. Just a reminder that today's program and past programs are archived at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org. Short takes are also available. And be sure to share with others. Now back to today's program with host David Wheaton.

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Host: David Wheaton 33:29

Katherine Kirsten with us today on The Christian Worldview. Again, the Senior Policy fellow at The Center of the American Experiment. We have their website linked at [The ChristianWorldview.org](http://TheChristianWorldview.org). Also the two columns that we're covering today in the program. You really should read both of these. They will give you a much fuller understanding of what is taking place. Those are both linked on our website, The ChristianWorldview.org. This is Independence Day weekend. Where we celebrate and remember the signing of the Declaration of Independence and all the values and principles that this country was built upon. If you want to know something that's systemic, that is systemically being removed from our schools across the country. Teaching the accurate American history, you write in your second column, which we'll talk about educrats unleashed again about Minnesota schools, you say the Minnesota Department of Education intends to mandate that your

first grader learn, "To recognize stereotypes, bias, speech, and injustice at the institutional or systemic level." That is a first grader. Your middle schooler will be drilled on how his, "Identity is a function of his skin color." Your high schooler would be required to explain that Europeans invented, "Whiteness, and that America's 19th century westward expansion was the shameful product of whiteness, Christianity, capitalism." Right? This is Independence Day weekend. And how about giving us a history lesson, correcting the history of what the Minnesota Department of Education is trying to do here. Talk about the founding of America, the principles upon which it was founded. And also the westward expansion. People, I think, will think, yeah, well, we just kind of mowed or white people just mowed down the Indians in a mass genocide as the country moved west. And we should have this collective guilt over this.

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Katherine Kirsten 35:30

In terms of the American founding, Abraham Lincoln called this country the world's last best hope, essentially. Because this was the first experiment in ordered liberty, just unheard of in world history. Our great American experiment was built on principles of equality and human rights that existed nowhere else at the time. But they weren't utopian, you know. We understand that human beings, our founders, they are flawed, they are selfish. That's why we need a bill of rights. That's why we need checks and balances. And that's the kind of system not like the French Revolution, which, you know, was a utopian project that ended in the slaughter of hundreds of 1000s of people. Our founders got it right. And, in fact, the standards of equality and human rights that leftists now claim to judge our country by and find it so, so terribly wanting, those arose only in the West. And what they want to do now is to cut down the tree of Western civilization, you know, what they call eurocentrism, or white supremacy, but they still want its roots. And here's an interesting little anecdote I, I talked recently with a black woman who was a janitor at a place where I found myself, she was from the Ivory Coast. And we began to talk and she said to me, America is heaven. She said it over and over. I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "You know, this is a place where when I call the police, they come and they help me. This is a place where when I work hard, I get ahead, where I am viewed on the basis of my character, not the color of my skin." I thought, if only the people trying to tear down our school system could hear the voice of a real person who came here for the right reasons and to find what she was hoping to find. So in terms of westward expansion, again, we are not a perfect people, right? You look at what happened around the world, when an advanced civilization encountered a prehistoric group of people who didn't have the written language, they didn't have the use of metal they hadn't invented the wheel, etc, that you're going to have a clash of civilizations, but in this country, although of course, we fell short in a number of respects. Here in Minnesota, for example, there were treaties negotiated. The Dakota Indians were paid annuities. This was extremely sparsely settled,

by the way, Minnesota. There was something like 6 to 8000 Dakota Indians here in 1821. I've forgotten the number of acres, let's say, hundreds of square miles, something like that, per Indian, and they mostly lived along the rivers. And there were treaties that were contracted and largely fulfilled. And there were tremendous benefits that were brought to basically hunter gatherer people. They got a written language. They have the opportunity today for modern health care, and now they've got lives that are so much easier and more comfortable the way all of us do, than they did back in 1821. So it's obviously a mixed story. But overall, when you look at World History, you look at the fact that the Dakota Indians moved down to the Twin Cities area in let's say, a little after 1700 and they did not negotiate treaties with the Iowa and Oto Indians who lived there. They killed them. They drove them out. They enslaved their enemies. All human beings are flawed. So that's what we try to understand when we look at history. And we come out quite well in that respect.

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Host: David Wheaton 40:07

Moving forward here, Catherine, just to what the effect of this Critical Race Theory, the manipulation going on, the revision of history going on, what is going to be the impact of that, first on students who go through this and get everything taught to them a completely different way, revising of history, everything taught through this lens of oppressor and oppressed? What is going to be the impact on students coming through that? And then can a nation, part two of that question is, can a nation actually survive this kind of self loathing? In other words, we have a terrible country. It's built on white supremacy. It oppressed the bipoc people, black indigenous people of color. It's inherently unjust, unfair. Can a nation really survive that?

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Katherine Kirsten 41:02

Excellent questions in terms of what will happen to students. I think of an anecdote that one of my friends, actually somebody connected with Center of the American Experiment told me recently. He said he had his granddaughter in the car, they were driving somewhere, she looked down at the floor, and she saw a quarter. And she said, "Oh, you know, that's a bad man." You know, this is George Washington, and her grandfather said, "What are you talking about?" "Well, he was a slave owner. You know, he owned slaves. Our first president was a bad man." In fact, I've read somewhere that something like half of all American elementary schools, in some survey said that they thought that all American states had once had slaves. This kind of gross, gross distortion of history, really, I think, steals from our children, their birthright, this wonderful legacy of freedom, the most the freest, most prosperous nation in world history, that their ancestors sacrificed to create and, you know, in many cases, died in military actions in order to pass this on to them. This is being stolen from them. And along with that, the sense of gratitude that all of

us should feel about the opportunities we have in life, that is so important for us to be for human flourishing to have a realistic sense of the blessings that you've been given and a hopeful sense about the future and a sense of personal accountability and responsibility. You know, democracy doesn't continue on unless it's renewed with every generation, all of those insights our children are going to be deprived of and what an excellent question. I don't think we can point to another society in history where this kind of self inflicted wound, you know, this kind of self loathing, as you described it, has been inflicted by elites, on ordinary citizens. Certainly, when you look at our greatest adversary, now, Communist China, they are doing just the opposite of what we are doing. They have a new patriotic citizenship initiative in their schools, and telling their students what a marvelous place China is. While we're telling our students what a terrible place they live in, and who wants to defend it. So of course, we will become vulnerable to people who are self interested in terms of power, transforming the system so that they, they can help to create a new system, right? If White supremacy means that all of our institutions and norms have to be transformed, removed, then somebody else is going to be building new ones. And it's not going to be a country I think that any of us want to live in.

H

Host: David Wheaton 44:13

I just wanted to conclude by reading one final paragraph of your column here. By recruiting students into identity politics, you write, it will drive toxic wedges between children. That's true. Create frictions and resentments that permeate their school day and amplify the depression and anxiety that already afflicts so many of our young people. Minority students will suffer most. They will come to see themselves as victims instead of learning the success formula of having character, resilience, and hard work that has lifted so many, both white and black, even in the face of discrimination and adversity. Finally, this new racist ideology is deadly for our democratic way of life. America's freedom and prosperity are based not on shared race or ethnicity, but on an allegiance to shared principles. Including human beings unique dignity, and unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Straight from the Declaration of Independence, if you celebrate this weekend. And you say the current administration, I'll just say nationally and locally here in Minnesota, us versus them ideology taken to its logical conclusion denies the very possibility of democratic governance. Now, I think we still have a representative Republic, from a standpoint of elections. I'm not sure though. I don't know. This last election, lots of abnormalities and so forth, whether we ask if our vote actually makes a difference anymore. I know that's kind of a big statement. But I think there's questions. Why don't people, the vast majority of people in America see this Critical Race Theory for the toxic garbage that it is, and vote other people in office who don't perpetuate this? Why are school boards and other places where people are voted into office? Why are governors and presidents voted into office by people who perpetuate this godless

worldview?

K

Katherine Kirsten 46:19

That, of course, is an excellent question. I think we may be seeing things start to turn around here. On a hopeful note, our Center of the American Experiment is creating a parent toolkit, kind of a one stop resource hub for parents who want to push back, fight back against this. We are seeing these pop up all over the country now. It's very heartening. There's a new organization called The Foundation Against Intolerance and Racism. These are people from center right to center left, who are very concerned about this. They're starting chapters all over the country, creating alternative curricula, lining parents up with legal representation when this kind of thing invades their schools. There's another group called Parents Defending Education, doing the same thing. Teaching parents how to do FOIA request to find out what's really going on in their schools. I think people are really beginning now that COVID is really winding down, I think they're beginning to understand that this is a real threat. So we find it very heartening, the kind of response that we are increasingly getting to our education numbers. We've had a 17 city tour of Minnesota, we've had hundreds of people come out. We've created a portal for them on these social studies standards you described to register their objections. 80% of all the objections that the Department of Education got here in the state were from our citizens we informed. So I think we are going to see some very hopeful developments here.

H

Host: David Wheaton 48:06

Catherine, thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview today. But even more, just the way you write so insightfully about these worldviews that are so divisive, and so harmful to not only our country, but to people, to souls. I mean, this is really bad for people. So we just wish you the best and all of God's best and Grace to You, Catherine. Thanks so much, David. Thanks for having me on the program. I hope you enjoyed the interview with Katherine Kirsten today. You can find out more about her in The center for the American Experiment by going to our website, The ChristianWorldview.org. There are links to both of the columns we discussed there today as well. She has a very good handle on Critical Race Theory. I know we've covered it a couple times recently, but the question about how it's been advanced so quickly is an interesting one and one she addresses in one of those columns. If there was a passage of scripture that describes the worldview of Critical Race Theory, it would be Colossians 2. This is where the Apostle Paul is writing to the church in Colossae, which is near Laodicea, that lukewarm church that Christ describes in Revelation, this is a worldly minded church. And so this is why Paul writes in Colossians, chapter two, starting in verse eight, he says, See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy, and empty deception, according to the tradition of men,

according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. And this is exactly what Critical Race Theory does it. It takes minds captive. People begin to live in an alternate false reality. The whole thing's based on a lie. Secondly, that verse talks about empty deception. It is empty deception, it deceives people into believing something that's not true. And when you believe a lie, you just get deeper and deeper into it and go further in the wrong direction. The passage also talks about it's according to the tradition of men. It really is. T a worldview that is based on fallen sinful human reasoning, not a biblical worldview, but fallen human reasoning. And finally, that passage says, according to the elementary principles of the world, it's based on a false notion, even the racial aspect of it is based on a false nation that there are multiple races. Of course, there are not. There's just one race, the human race. People have different skin colors, ethnicities, and so forth. But there's only one race, the human race that God made. And God calls us to treat each other individually as people, not based on the color of our skin or ethnicity. And the next verse, verse nine gives the contrast. It says, For in Christ, all the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form. And in Him if you're a believer, you have been made complete, and He Christ is the head over all rule and authority. In other words, if you have repented of your sin and put your faith, your trust, your belief in the person of Christ and His work for you on the cross, you can be complete or whole, not in captivity or bondage to these false philosophies that come and go and have a worldview that is sound, that truthfully understands what is going on in the world. So thank you for listening to The Christian Worldview today. You can always go to our website, TheChristianWorldview.org to hear this program and other past programs, to order resources for adults and children, to sign up for our free weekly email to support the ministry or to become a monthly partner. You can also call us at 1-888-646-2233. And just a reminder, if you have any healthcare needs, click on the Samaritan Ministries banner on our homepage at The ChristianWorldview.org. Just a quick follow up to our topic last week on the Southern Baptist Convention, the new president Ed Litton, it was revealed this week, plagiarized over 100 sermons and they've been removed from his website. So that's something that is just even hard to make up that we'll be addressing in the weeks to come on the program. But in the meantime, let's remember Hebrews 13:8, that Jesus Christ and His Word are the same yesterday, and today and forever. We hope you have a wonderful Independence Day weekend, as you think biblically, live accordingly, and stand firm.

P

Program Director 52:59

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