



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



And What about Unity?

Jesus prayed for His disciples in John 17:9-18. The prayer was powerful and it was His request for their unity. There are several important things to note:

(1) After Jesus' departure, the disciples would be under attack for their faith in Him. It was important that they be kept, or maintained. In fact, He prayed, "Keep them in Your name." A person's name represented his character. For the Father to keep the disciples in His name meant that He would maintain among them the whole truth His Son had revealed about the Father.

(2) The outcome would be complete unity among The Eleven. The unity would be dynamic because it was modeled in the relationship of the Father and the Son.

(3) In verses 14-16, Jesus stated, "I have given them Your word." The power of God's Word solidifies our relationship with Him.

(4) In verse 17, Jesus asked that they be "set apart" for God's use, which according to verse 18, was their mission to the world. Their unity was important in fulfilling the mission.

From these points we conclude, as He desired the unity of The Eleven, so He desires unity for the disciples who would come after them. That's you and me!

As we consider the magnitude of this statement, we are perplexed when we see examples of disunity today in the Body of Christ. We disagree on everything from the outcome of the election to abortion. You name it, we all have our opinion — and naturally our opinion is right! This often becomes a barrier in our relationships. While meaningful discussions are essential in our spiritual growth in the Body of Christ, silos of opposing perspectives are very apparent. The po-

larization we see in our nation is sadly reflected in the Church.

It becomes easy to respond like the brother who noticed the speck in another brother's eye while missing the beam he carried in his own eye. (Matthew 7:5) Affording others the opportunity to have a different opinion is a high-priced commodity. As a result, we settle for less costly traits such as association only with those who agree with us, or rushing to judgment of those who disagree or are different. This often leads to hurting a fellow brother or sister. The differences can be over something as small as the way a brother or sister combs their hair, or as significant as the type of music the church choir sings.

Will we ever be a Church without differences? Of course not! This won't take place until we stand before our Lord in Glory. Disagreements do not become dangerous until they form a wedge between us and our brothers and sisters in Christ, hindering our ability to love each other. Jesus said in John 13:34-35 we are to "Love one another, even as He has loved us . . . 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (NASU)

You may have heard about the recent firing of Dan Darling because of an alleged policy violation at his employer, a well-known religious organization. Perhaps you have followed his story and have already taken sides. Whether you side with Dan or his former employer is irrelevant. What is important is Dan's response. He shared his experience in an op-ed article and said, "I harbor no animosity toward my former employer, who are my brothers and sisters in Christ."

We will never escape disagreements or sensitive and challenging discussions in the Church that are apparent as we do life together. However, as stated by Dan, we ought never to . . . [Full Article](#)

The Best Teaching Starts at Home

Nicole Solas is a concerned parent. With the recent nationwide spread of critical race theory (CRT) in school curriculums, she wanted to know what her child's kindergarten was teaching students on the subject. Yet when she filed a public records request with the South Kingstown School District, she was served a lawsuit, a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction by the National Education Association — the nation's largest teachers union. [1]

What Is CRT?

If you haven't yet heard about CRT [2], it's a Marxist worldview which claims everyone falls into one of two groups: those who have power and those who don't. [3] It also claims those who have power always oppress those without it. Those who don't have power are divided into one of several "oppressed" subgroups such as race, disability, immigration status, income, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. A person's level of oppression is based on the number of oppressed groups with which they identify. Higher oppression equals greater moral power and lower personal accountability.

With CRT's advocacy of racial division, a victim mentality and its crusade against personal responsibility, it creates a minefield for children. Solas has good reason to be concerned.

The Question behind the Question

For all of the national controversy CRT has generated about what is taught in our public schools, another question comes to mind: What are parents teaching kids about race and other cultural issues at home?

Angela Sailor, Vice President of The Feulner Institute, writes: "Flourishing communities start with strong civic life, and strong civics start in our families. That's why parents matter." [4] A child's knowledge will grow through school and other external influences, but her ability to apply that knowledge in the real world is multiplied through the influence of parents at home.

This puts the weight of responsibility back on parents. What should they be teaching their children? Having been a student under my parents' wise instruction, I can attest no better curriculum exists than the Bible.

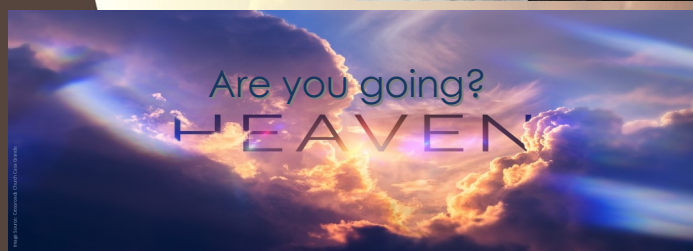
How the Bible Makes a Difference

CRT makes a well-intended effort to address real issues such as racism, and I do not want to overlook this. With a biblical foundation, however, parents can expose errors in this worldview and emphasize God's truth about racism and its underlying causes.

Instead of buying in to CRT's view of humanity (two groups — oppressors and oppressed), biblically equipped parents can teach their children of their identity as individuals created in God's image. (Genesis 1:27)

Instead of swallowing CRT's view of sin (only oppressors are guilty; the oppressed are innocent), biblically astute parents have an opportunity to show their kids that all are guilty before God. Our Creator doesn't see separate groups of people united by similar physical or social characteristics; He sees sinners who have all fallen short of His standard for our conduct. (Romans 3:23)

Finally, instead of viewing salvation through CRT's lens (as possible only through social activism and liberation of the oppressed), wise parents can point their children to God's solution: Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:6-8) Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, all people can experience [Full Article](#)



Sermon of the Month

Read Dr. Edwards' Sermon of the Month



Sermon Audio Player

Listen to Dr. Edwards online!



Stay in Touch!

Share your questions and comments through email.



Contact Dr. Edwards if you would like to have him as your special guest.

PO Box 3862, Barrington, IL 60011

847-909-8543/biblewayministries@sbcglobal.net

[1] Allen, Virginia, "Mom Sued for Seeking Records on School's Critical Race Theory Lessons", <https://www.dailysignal.com/2021/08/05/teachers-union-sues-rhode-island-mom-for-seeking-records-about-schools-critical-race-theory-curriculum/>, August 5, 2021.

[2] "What is Critical Race Theory?", <https://criticalrace.org/what-is-critical-race-theory/>, Critical Race Training in Education.

[3] Is Critical Theory Biblical?, <https://youtu.be/DAABuCC96tl>, What Would You Say?, April 22, 2020.

[4] Sailor, Angela, "Parents Are a Vital Part of Kids' Civic Education," <https://www.heritage.org/education/commentary/parents-are-vital-part-kids-civic-education>, The Heritage Foundation, July 9, 2021.