

## Critical Theory/Cultural Marxism: Basic Assumptions (beliefs, teachings, principles)

The following are basic assumptions found within the worldview known as Critical Theory (or Cultural Marxism, Neo Marxism, Wokeism, Social Justice Theory, etc.). They can be used to help identify when and where this ideology is found in culture and to show how it conflicts with the biblical worldview.

1. There is **no divine or transcendent truth** or standard or norm.
2. All truth claims, beliefs, norms, knowledge, values, sacred texts, religions, etc. are humanly or **socially constructed**. None can be said to be better or worse in any transcendent or absolute sense.
3. One's **identity** is not based on any divine, transcendent, objective, or biological truth or standard. Rather, it is self-chosen, self-determined, and socially constructed. One's identity is often determined by an inner sense or feeling of self, or sense or feeling of belonging and can be therefore fluid. If someone has not self-chosen an identity, he may be assigned an identity by others who do so on the basis of a *socially constructed* standard.
4. No individual or group regardless of their identity, beliefs, lifestyle, activity, physical characteristics, etc. is to be regarded as immoral, shameful, evil, abnormal, unhealthy, or unnatural. Rather, all groups and identities are to be classified as moral, honorable (to be proud of), good, normal, healthy, or natural. This is especially true of those identities that have been, until more recently, been classified as immoral, shameful, evil, abnormal, unhealthy, or unnatural (a classification produced by the dominance of a Christian worldview with its belief in divine truth, created orders, and natural law). (**Social justice**).
5. **Redefinition of terms.** Tolerance, equity, justice, diversity, oppressor, oppressed, racism, privilege, power, hate, love, bigotry, authentic, marriage, male, female, etc. are no longer to be understood or defined on the basis of transcendent truths, a biblical worldview, or natural realities, but on the basis of the above assumptions. The result is affirming (approving) those identities that were considered immoral, shameful, abnormal, etc. in the past while ostracizing, silencing, and punishing those who believe in divine truth, a biblical worldview, created orders, etc.
6. All socially constructed truth claims, beliefs, norms, sacred texts, religions, etc. are constructed for the purpose of **hegemony** – so one group will gain and maintain power, privileges, influence, or control, and other groups will be deprived of these. Whichever groups make up the majority or have more power, influence, and privilege are the oppressors while others with less power, influence, and privilege are the oppressed. However, biblical Christians will always be considered oppressors even when they have little influence because their belief in transcendent truths means they confess that certain identities, beliefs, lifestyles, values, characteristics are truly moral, honorable, healthy, normal, or natural, and others are not.
7. A person may identify with more than one socially constructed identity – or be assigned to more than one socially constructed identity – making one person more oppressed and another more of an oppressor (**intersectionality**).
8. **Social justice** means exposing the truth claims of Christianity as oppressive so it can be deconstructed and dismantled by social action, intimidation, and punishment.
9. One's **character** is not determined on the basis of one's moral compliance to a transcendent moral law, but by his group identity. A person who belongs to a group, such as Christianity with its belief in divine truth, and seeks to influence cultural norms and beliefs is an oppressor and therefore lacking in proper character.
10. Systems (alleged to be) constructed by a majority group are suspect at best, unjust and oppressive at worst, and need to be deconstructed and dismantled in order to serve the cause of social justice (**systemic injustice**).
11. Knowledge and truth are not acquired primarily by reason as it searches divine revelation or natural knowledge, but are acquired and realized as a result of personal or group experiences and stories, and/or by what a person or group feels or senses (**lived experience**).

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