

## The Dangers of Wokeness

What does it mean to be woke and how does it square with the Bible? This session will explore these questions and touch on how believers should react and respond to the woke movement and how we can make a positive impact for Jesus in our churches and communities.

### **So first define:**

Term came from **1938** blues singer, Huddie Ledbetter (Lead Belly) advised blacks “best stay **woke**, keep their eyes open” referring to **racial** violence.

In **1962**, William Melvin Kelley article in the New York Times On beatniks and slang within the Harlem Jazz scene. If you’re **Woke** You Dig it.

2014- took off on social media after Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson Mo. BLM used the word to rally for social activism against **racism, injustice**, and **police** brutality.

According to World Magazine, woke now includes **CRT** and **left** wing political ideology.

Oxford English Dictionary- Alert to racial or social discrimination and **injustice**.

U of Miami definition: critical consciousness to intersecting systems of **oppression**.

Definition: pop word that describes state of being **awakened** to the reality that **racism** is **systemic**—deeply engrained as an accepted and assumed part of our culture/society.

Wokeness identifies **racism** as the fundamental cause of disparities among racial minorities and believe that racism underlies **all** of Western society which perpetuates **unequal** distribution of social privileges between whites and people of color. Wokeness generally assumes that those who are white are **inherently unable** to identify racism. In addition, if you are woke, you will educate others and promote Social **Justice**.

Wokeness has also now incorporated advocacy for Transgenderism and LGBTQ issues.

It is affecting politics, education (CRT), medicine, mental health, entertainment, business, investing, and etc. including the **CHURCH!**

Related Terms:

CRT-Critical **Race** Theory

DEI in businesses, investments, etc. Diversity, **Equity** and Inclusion.

**Intersectionality**- the **interconnected** nature of **race**, **class**, and **gender** and how they **overlap** and impact **discrimination** or **disadvantage**.

### **Characteristics of Wokeness:**

Divides people into two groups-not lost and saved, but **oppressed** and **oppressors**. (usually based on **skin color**).

**Impossible** for anyone with the skin color of the “oppressed” to be racist themselves and **impossible** for anyone with the skin color of the oppressor not to be racist.

Fundamental problem with culture, society, human beings, according to wokism/CRT is unequal distribution of wealth and resources because of **racism**. (Bible says fundamental problem is sin. Regardless of skin color.)

Woke’s solution is to **tear down** social structures and institutions (church, home, legal, government, education, finance, etc) and **reset** society. **Forced** wealth and resource redistribution (Robin Hood)

Change **laws** and or **standards** if there are disproportional racial outcomes.

- Change laws about marijuana because more of a certain race have been arrested.
- Change courses in school when more of a certain skin color have done well or poorly.

The Goal is Equal **outcomes** NOT equal opportunity.

The Goal is **equity**, not equality.

Dangers—removes Freedom of **speech**—in church, on radio, on YouTube, etc. Websites,

Control by **intimidation** (demonstrations, threatened lawsuits, deplatform, cancel)  
Don’t ask questions, don’t push back, Just go along

If intimidation fails to work, perhaps **legal** assaults-

Several **churches** have jumped on this train and joined the parade. Some knowingly, some unknowingly.

UMC litany- stay woke.

Lucas Miles- *Woke Jesus*- Woke Christianity-also known as “Conscious Christianity” is broad-stroke terminology describing Christians who are intentionally conscious of oppression, racism and injustice.

## How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

### CBC – Bible Based-accountability to Scripture

Biblically there is only **One** Race. It is **Human** Race or **Adam's** race.

Acts 17:26 From **one** man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and **he** determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

Table of **Nations** in Genesis 10

Moses had a Cushite **wife**

All humans are genetically **identical**. Differing amounts of melanin in the **skin**. (Two mid-brown parents could have 16 children varying from all white to all black.) We're all genetically cousins---Hey cuz! Geneticist now say all living humans had **one** common female ancestor and **one** common male ancestor. Like the Bible has told us for thousands of years. Imagine that.

But discrimination based on skin color (Racism) **DOES** exist. And has been a part of American culture in many ways. And sometimes the **church**. Rental or sale of homes, hiring, education, etc.

And it is **sinful**.

Many of those wrongs have been and are being addressed.

The Church needs to be sure not to **excuse** it in the past or in the present, but to call it sin.

Christians should be concerned about **injustice**. Whether based on skin color, country of origin, income, religious belief, etc.

Handout Scriptures About Discrimination Based on Skin Color Racism:

Glance through---read Billy Graham/Lucas Miles

But Wokeness redefines racism and **perverts** Biblical justice and guts the church of the **Gospel** of Jesus. The new gospel of wokeness seeks to bring salvation by tearing down established institutions and rebuilding society.

Miles- Critical Race Theory is [responsible] for doctrinally **disemboweling** the modern **church** of its views of salvation, sin, and human suffering.

**The Bible teaches Individual** responsibility for **sin**---we may bear the consequences of our ancestors sins, but we are not held responsible unless we **perpetuate** them.

Jesus did **not** work to overthrow Rome---the obvious oppressors. Instead He called out **sin** in both the oppressed as well as the oppressors. As did Paul and all the early disciples. As did Paul and all the Disciples. And so is the Church to do today.

At times we are all **oppressed** to various degrees and at times we are all **oppressors** to various degrees. To say that one group can't understand is to **deny** the power of God and His Holy Spirit.

### **How Should We Then Live? How Should We Respond or React?**

Don't get **distracted**. Keep your eye on the ball which is sharing **Jesus**.

The enemy's goal is to **Cancel** Jesus. Jesus will **not** be canceled. We must do our part to speak for Him.

The solution to society's problems is **NOT Conservatism**, **NOT** getting the right **politicians** elected, even if they are Christians. The Solution is **Jesus**—the Gospel.

Transformation from the **inside** out. Of people, of the church, of society, of America.

Instead of joining the Woke movement and “burning it all down”—The Bible tells us in Rom 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at **peace** with everyone.

**Franklin Graham** to the National Religious Broadcasters: “...if one doesn't talk about sin or preach the gospel, then that person doesn't have anything to worry about in society, but if you're going to try to proclaim the Gospel, they're going to try to **shut** you up.”

Speak **truth** when given the opportunity, but do so in **love**.

**The Truth** is durable. Teach/preach/do **truth**

Real **love** is durable. Teach/preach/do **love**

Be **prepared** to give a reason for the hope that is in you.

Standing against the tsunami of wokeness takes **courage**

Don't look for conflict, but don't **run** from it.

We must **support** each other—Christians must hang **together** or we will all hang separately. (apologies to Benjamin Franklin)

But---do **proactive** ministry---show **love** to others, to those of **all** skin colors

To the poor, single moms, homeless, LGBT, children, etc

Do so much **good** work in your community that they value you. Not JUST speaking out on LGBT issues.

(Story of YMCA in Los Angeles in Rodney King Riots)

Many people are getting tired of being intimidated and having this WOKE ideology shoved down their throats.

Some signs people are pushing back:

Hershey/Bud Lite, Target, some politicians,

**Some Other Concrete Actions:**

Run/support Christian **schools**

Help **homeschool** parents (People are concerned about homeschool kids adapting to society when we have public school students using litter boxes)

Weekday **Religious** Education

Teach **apologetics** in SS classes—not just Scripture, but Scripture applied. Responding to the times.

Serve teachers **lunch** on a workday. Free ice cream---thanks for what you do.

Remember the Promises of God for His true church---the gates of Hell will **not** prevail against her.

See list of Scriptures on being awake!—the Real wake up call!

The ultimate intersection is Jesus' Cross. It is the place where God's grace intersected with our sin. Where His perfect holiness intersected with His great love. And where all human beings stand before Him equally guilty, but with equal opportunity to be forgiven, cleansed, justified and saved! And where we are all called to intersect with each other. The ground is level at the foot of the cross. For whites and blacks. For oppressed and oppressor. For young and old. For rich and poor. Jesus died for all. Some may have more to repent of than others. But we are all incurably sinful before God and we all need forgiveness only available through Jesus at His cross. The cross is the intersection where the perfect holy eternal God met sinful fallen man.

**Go and take territory for Jesus!**

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Serve teachers \_\_\_\_\_ on a workday. Free ice cream---thanks for what you do.

Promises of God for His true church---the gates of Hell will \_\_\_\_\_ prevail against her.

The **ultimate intersection** is Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Scriptures And Thoughts That Speak to Discrimination Based on Skin Color**

Acts 17:26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.

Table of Nations in Genesis 10

Colossians 3:25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

Romans 2:11 For God does not show favoritism.

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.

Romans 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body-whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free-and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

James 2:8-9 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Billy Graham, Jesus, "was not a White man. He was not a Black man. He came from that part of the world that touches Africa and Asia and Europe and He probably had a brown skin...Christ belongs to all people. He belongs to the whole world."

Miles, "Christianity has never been a White man's Gospel. It began on the day of Pentecost with "God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven" and culminates with "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

### **Scriptures on Waking Up-The Real Wake Up Call!**

1 Cor 15:34 **Wake up** from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. ESV

Ps 3:5 I lie down and sleep; **I wake again**, because the Lord sustains me.

Isa 26:19 But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, **wake up** and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

Joel 1:5 **Wake up, you drunkards**, and weep! Wail, all you drinkers of wine; wail because of the new wine, for it has been snatched from your lips.

Mark 13:32-37 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, **keep awake**. For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 **Therefore stay awake**—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake**." ESV

Rom 13:11 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to **wake up from your slumber**, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Eph 5:8-18 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "**Wake up, O sleeper**, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." 15 Be very careful, then, how you live — not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

Rev 3:2-3 **Wake up!** Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.