

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.

1

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

2

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.

3

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.

4

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

5

Definitions:

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

University of Miami: critical consciousness to intersecting systems of oppression.

6

A 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.

7

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.

8

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

9

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

10

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**.

11

Characteristics of Wokeness

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

12

Characteristics of Wokeness

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.

13

Characteristics of Wokeness

The fundamental problem with culture, society, human beings, according to wokism/CRT is unequal distribution of wealth and resources because of racism.

14

Characteristics of Wokeness

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 (Think Robin Hood)

15

Characteristics of Wokeness

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

16

Characteristics of Wokeness

Change drug laws 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.

17

Characteristics of Wokeness

The Goal is Equal outcomes
NOT equal opportunity.

The Goal is equity, not equality.

18

Characteristics of Wokeness

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

19

Characteristics of Wokeness

Control by intimidation (demonstrations, threatened lawsuits, deplatforming, canceling)
Don't ask questions, don't push back, Just go along

If intimidation fails to work, perhaps legal assaults

20

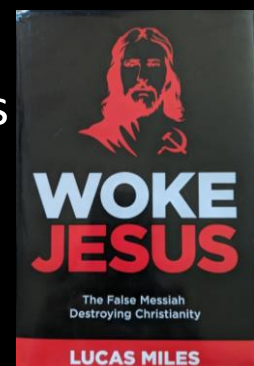
Characteristics of Wokeness

Some churches have jumped on this train and joined the parade.

21

Characteristics of Wokeness

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.



22

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

Biblically there is only One Race.
It is the 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.

23

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

Table of Nations in Genesis 10
Moses had a Cushite wife

All humans are genetically identical. Differing amounts of melanin in the skin. We're all genetically cousins! Geneticists 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.

24

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

But discrimination based on skin color (Racism) **DOES** exist. And has been a part of American culture in many ways. And sometimes the **church**.

And it is **sinful!**

25

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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**.

26

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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

(See list of Scriptures)

27

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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.

28

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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

29

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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.

30

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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 Disciples. And so is the Church to do today.

31

How Does Wokeness Square With The Bible?

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.

32

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.

•

33

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

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.

•

34

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

Instead of joining the Woke movement and “burning it all down” the Bible tells us:

Romans 12:18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

35

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

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.”

36

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

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

37

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

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.

38

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

We must support each other—Christians must hang together or we will all hang separately.

(Benjamin Franklin)

39

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

Do **proactive** ministry! Show love to those of all skin colors, to the poor, single moms, the homeless, LGBT, children, etc

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

(YMCA in LA)

40

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

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

Some signs people are pushing back:
Hershey, Bud Lite, Target, etc,

41

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

Some Other Concrete Actions:

- Run/support Christian schools
- Help homeschool parents
- 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, etc

42

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

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

See Scriptures on being awake!
The Real wake up call!

43

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

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. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 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. 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—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

44

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

The ultimate intersection is Jesus' Cross.

It is the place where:

- God's grace intersected with our sin.
- His perfect holiness intersected with His great love.
- All stand before Him equally guilty, but with equal opportunity to be forgiven, cleansed, justified and saved!
- We are all called to intersect with each other.
- The perfect holy eternal God met sinful fallen man.

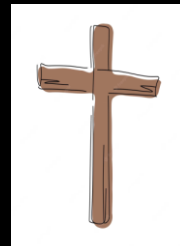


45

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

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. We are all incurably sinful 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.

46

**Hopefully you've stayed woke,
or at least awake throughout this.
Go and take territory for Jesus!**

Questions or Comments?

47

48