

“Spiritual Autonomy, Deconstructionism, and Critical Race Theory:  
The War Against Christian Discipleship”  
Ephesians 4:17-32

Paul lived his life (and so should we) to bring men and women to God through the gospel and to bring Christians to maturity through discipleship. *“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me” (Colossians 1:28-29). “When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:21-22). “But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you — for this reason, brothers, in all our distresses and affliction we have been comforted about you through your faith. For now we live, if you are standing fast in the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 3:6-8).*

- What is “Spiritual Autonomy”? *It is the freedom to act or function independent of spiritual authority. I can think my own way, do life my own way, and pursue my own goals, all under the name of Christianity. My situation, circumstance, and experiences, gives me the right to live independent of the authority of God’s Word and those that God has assigned authority over my life.*
    - *“There is no such thing as facts, just interpretations.” (Friedrich Nietzsche) “There are no hard distinctions between what is true and what is false. A thing is not necessarily either true or false; it can be both true and false.” (Harold Pinter)*
    - *“The world and many Christians deny absolute truth because at our core we want to be autonomous without any accountability or restraints. Most simply, we want to be God.” (Randy Smith) “The Christian cannot simply do or not do based on what they feel like doing. They must do or not do based on what will grow their affections for Christ.” (John Piper)*
- “And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.” (John 3:19-21; cf. Psalm 1:1-4)*
- Ephesians 4:17-25 “I need a transformation of the way I think.” (cf. Romans 12:2)
    - “The Gentiles (unbelievers) walk in ‘the futility of their minds.’” According to this text there is “understanding” and “ignorance” (4:18), we are taught we must “learn Christ” and that “the truth is in Christ” (4:20-21), and that there is “falsehood” and “truth” (4:25).
      - So therefore we can see in this text that believers and unbelievers *think* drastically different and *act* drastically different from one another.
    - “Futility of their minds” defined Scripturally: They are “darkened in their understanding,” meaning: “they are alienated from the life of God,” that is, they are excluded from knowing and enjoying God. Therefore, the way we think leads to either knowing and enjoying God or not knowing and enjoying God. The reason that this is the case is because they have “a hardness of heart”, namely, a rejection of objective truth.
      - The word Objective refers to facts that are provable or verifiable. Objective statements and observations don’t include people’s personal views and preferences, known as biases. Subjective, on the other hand, refers to personal feelings, viewpoints, opinions, and biases.

(continued →)

**Worship:** Nothing But the Blood (Various Artists)      Jesus, Thank You (Sovereign Grace Music)  
All Glory Be to Christ (Kings Kaleidoscope)      **Closing Song:** 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord) (By: Matt Redman)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;  
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- Both ways of thinking lead to specific ways of life. *A feelings led way of life* leads to “sensuality and one who is greedy to practice every kind of impurity” (sexual sin, abortion, lying, cheating, stealing, selfishness, rebellion, gender confusion, addiction, laziness). *A fact led way of life* leads to objective “righteousness and holiness.” *Facts lead and feelings follow.*
- *“Therefore having put away falsehoods (being led by feelings, mine and others, and lies) let each one of you speak the truth (objective biblical truth) with his neighbor (those who claim Christ), for we are members of one another.” (Ephesians 4:25)*
- The Eleven Commandments of Spiritual Autonomy:
  1. Be critical of everyone, but never my feelings.
  2. Do not commit to the church; they will only hurt me and try to control me.
  3. Be suspicious of everyone’s intentions, except my own, always assume the worst of everyone else and the best of myself.
  4. I am not required to give grace, but I should always be given grace and understanding.
  5. If someone hurts me, I should separate from them, not try to reconcile with them.
  6. I am a victim, so therefore no one should have any expectations of me.
  7. Objective holiness is legalism.
  8. A submissive disposition is a sign of weakness.
  9. Life is a merry-go-round of confusion, discouragement, and gray. No one knows what is going on.
  10. Anyone who claims objective truth, other than myself, is dangerous and needs to be avoided.
  11. My feelings are my authority, therefore, feelings, not critical thinking, is the way I make decisions.
- Critical Thinking: The goal of the Christian is to be objectively Christ-like. I must put to death: *“I don’t feel like it”*.
  1. Does the Bible command me to do it or not to do it? If so, I will do it or not do it.
  2. If the church offers it, they obviously believe it is important. So what objective Biblical reason do I have not to participate?
  3. Do those that are striving to be like Christ do this? If they do, what objective biblical reason would I have not to do it?
  4. Is my reason for not wanting to do something deeper than: “I don’t feel like it”?
  5. If I’m not going to do this, what objective Biblically superior action am I going to take to grow my affections for Christ?
  6. Can I rearrange my life so that what God says is objectively true and important I align my life with?
  7. Can I ever be too committed to following the objective truth of God’s Word?

**Announcements:**

★**DONATIONS:** THIS Thursday is the last day we will be collecting monetary donations for the Lamb Family. Please put your monetary donations into the container beside the offering box! You can also give your donations through Venmo or online, directly to the Lambs.

↪In April we will be collecting donations for Heartbeats. We will have the list of needed items soon!

★**CHILDREN’S CATECHISM CLASS:** We will be having a Children's Catechism Class in the near future! There is a sign-up list on the back table for those parents who are interested in participating in this. Once we have an idea of the number of those who are interested, we will get the time and place scheduled. Child care will be offered!

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner *TONIGHT* immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!

★**COMMUNION:** We will be celebrating and partaking in Communion together as a body NEXT Sunday, April 3rd.