

— FIGHTING —

Critical Race Theory

—
A HOW-TO GUIDE
FOR CATHOLICS
—

by CATHOLICVOTE



Introduction

Bring This Pamphlet to School

You've probably heard about Critical Race Theory, also known as "CRT." But you might not fully understand it. And for the sake of America's children, you need to.

In fact, CRT is spreading so fast and has such powerful backers that we can't ignore it — and if we do, it will be at our own peril. To paraphrase an old saying:

You may not be interested in CRT, but CRT is interested in you.

This pamphlet has everything you'll need to fight back against CRT.

At the beginning of each chapter, you'll find a **Resource Box** packed with information, including:

- **Direct quotations from CRT thought leaders themselves (Chapter 1).** No CRT-defender can wiggle out of this info!
- **Shocking examples of CRT-inspired abuses (Chapter 2).** These are real-world actions that CRT-proponents are already doing in schools and other government institutions.
- **Catholic teachings that prove Christians are the true anti-racists, but CRT's "anti-racism" is a fraud (Chapter 3).** Once you understand the wisdom our faith has to offer, you'll see more clearly than ever that CRT's "anti-racism" is nothing of the kind, and actually does more to promote racism than to solve it!

But for now, we're going to arm you with some essential talking points to get you started right here at the beginning!

How to Talk About CRT

Promoters of CRT work hard to spread one idea:

"If you're not pro-CRT, you're racist."

But this is an absolute lie. In fact, it's the opposite of the truth.

And it's up to you to expose the lie by talking about CRT honestly, intelligently, and courageously.

Here are a few pro-CRT talking points and how you might answer them:

1. “CRT is on the same side as historic black leaders like abolitionist Frederick Douglass and civil rights champion Martin Luther King Jr.”

No, CRT teaches that America was founded to uphold a white supremacist power structure and to oppress non-whites. CRT says the same thing about Christian ideas.

But Frederick Douglass and the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. were both devout Christians and American patriots who based their rhetoric against racism on the traditional Judeo-Christian vision of the human person as made in the Image and Likeness of God.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that all human persons “have the same nature and same origin,” because they’re all created “in the image of the one God and equally endowed” with reason and souls. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), 1934)

That’s why the Catechism also teaches that racist discrimination is “**incompatible with God’s design.**” (CCC, 1935)

Douglass and King both shared that idea of the human person, and so did America’s founding fathers.

As Thomas Jefferson put it, “all men are created equal” before God and “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,” a principle that also inspired the framing of the U.S. Constitution.

Scholars believe that it was thanks to that founding principle that America would go on to end the racist institution of American slavery.

Frederick Douglass certainly thought so. He once said that “the Constitution is a glorious liberty document” that never contained any “warrant, license, nor sanction” of slavery.

More than ten years before the abolition of slavery, Douglass directly quoted Jefferson’s Declaration and added: “There are forces in operation, which must inevitably, work the downfall of slavery ... and the doom of slavery is certain.”

Where did Douglass get that hope? He said he drew “encouragement from ‘the Declaration of Independence,’ the great principles it contains, and the genius of American Institutions....” (Source: rbscp.lib.rochester.edu/2945)

King made the exact same argument when he advocated for the Civil Rights Act, which would offer legal guarantees against racist policies in the U.S.

“When the architects of our great republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence,” King said, they signed “a promise that all men, yes,

black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” (Source: kr.usembassy.gov/education-culture/infopedia-usa/living-documents-american-history-democracy/martin-luther-king-jr-dream-speech-1963/)

In other words, it was by appealing to the Christian view of the human person and the American founding that King and Douglass argued for the abolition of slavery and the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

CRT doesn’t appeal to those things or build on them. Instead it rejects them and tries to tear them down.

2. “Your local school doesn’t even teach CRT! Only colleges teach it.”

As a matter of fact, it’s very likely that your local public school has already started teaching CRT without telling you.

America’s largest teachers union — the National Education Association — voted at its 2021 assembly meeting to promote CRT in every state. (Source: catholicvote.org/leading-teachers-union-vows-to-teach-crt-in-all-50-states/)

Soon after, thousands of public school teachers signed a petition vowing to teach CRT to our children even if it meant breaking the law in states that ban CRT from public schools. (Source: catholicvote.org/thousands-of-teachers-pledge-to-defy-anti-crt-laws/)

So far, more than 20 states have either banned or considered passing legislation to ban CRT from classrooms and other public institutions.

Countless lawmakers and attorneys general aren’t reacting to nothing!

3. “CRT is simply anti-racist. If you’re trying to stop us from teaching CRT, you must be trying to defend racism.”

It’s a deceptive sleight-of-hand to claim that CRT is “anti-racist,” because it hides the fact that CRT starts out with a false definition of “racism.”

As preposterous as it sounds, CRT actually defines racism as simply... being white.

And we don’t have to work hard to prove that. Prominent people and institutions that promote CRT say it themselves, right out in the open.

You can find numerous CRT resources that explicitly teach against “Whiteness” itself, identifying the skin color with racism. For example the Smithsonian, a taxpayer-funded educational organization, published a guide on how to confront not just racism, but “Whiteness” — which *is* racism, according to CRT. (Source: nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/topics/whiteness)

CRT also openly advocates for cruelty and discrimination against white people.

“The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination,” writes leading CRT advocate Ibram X. Kendi. “The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”

By opposing CRT, we’re not trying to defend racism. We’re trying to defend against racism, and CRT is racist.

Who to talk to about CRT

1. Your Local School Board, Teachers, and Parents

Most districts require their school boards to post the time and location of their meetings ahead of time. Whether by signing up to participate via online chat or video conference, or by attending and making public comments in person, **you need to be there to ask explicit questions about CRT.**

TIP: It may **not** be enough to simply ask “Is CRT a part of our district’s curriculum?” Instead, it’s smart to ask about specific tenets of CRT, using real-world examples of what they look like in the context of a classroom. (See **Chapter 2’s Resource Box.**) In addition, we recommend you also speak with local parents and teachers. Ask them if they have seen any troubling signs of CRT-style teaching in the district, and bring their concerns (anonymously if they wish) to the public’s attention.

Make sure to record your questions and the answers you receive at school board meetings. Then spread the word about how CRT’s ideas may be affecting your community’s children.

2. Your Local Church Leaders

Some bishops, priests, and other pastors have unfortunately been deceived about CRT, and even allow CRT-themed materials to find their way into parochial schools, retreats, and conferences.

It’s up to you to alert them to the fact that CRT undermines important Christian beliefs. Consider giving them copies of this pamphlet, or copying some of its contents in an email to them.

Once they really understand CRT, Christian leaders can become some of the most powerful voices against it. Many pastors have even warned the public about CRT from the pulpit. This has an important effect on public perception and can play a major role in fighting CRT in your community.

3. Your Political Leaders and Representatives

Elected officials aren't rulers. They're servants. And they can't do the will of the public in your community if they don't hear from you about what you want.

Call and write to your representative. It can start with as little as a quick note telling them that you and your friends are against CRT, and that powerful people are trying to push its ideas in local schools and other institutions. Ask them to look into it.

TIP: Offer to help! Find your local Political Action Committees, activist groups, and party headquarters. Show up for meetings and ask what you can do, letting them know that CRT is one of your primary areas of interest. Invite friends to come along and help as well. You'll be amazed what you can accomplish if everyone devotes some of their free time to defending local kids from CRT indoctrination.

Chapter 1

A Big Lie: Critical Race Theory in Theory

Resource Box: Before we dive deeper, here's a useful list of some of the worst ideas promoted by CRT, with undeniable, publicly verifiable citations of their sources:

- **“Hard work,” “politeness,” “delayed gratification,” and other good traits are actually just products of white culture, which is designed to hurt non-whites.**
Source: A public resource on “Whiteness” published by the taxpayer-funded Smithsonian Institution.
- **Discrimination against white Americans is not only good, but a necessary “remedy” to America’s current racism. “The only remedy to racist discrimination is antiracist discrimination. The only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination.”**
Source: Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist*
- **The “race-neutrality” of “regular Americans” is the “most threatening racist movement” in America — worse than the alt right’s “drive for a White ethnostate....”**
Source: Ibram X. Kendi, *How to Be an Antiracist*
- **The nuclear family as we know it today is a product of white supremacy.**
Source: “White Supremacy and the Web of Family Science: Implications of the Missing Spider,” *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, Vol. 12, No. 1 (March 2020), pp. 64–79.

You’ll read more about some of those ideas in the following pages. But first, let’s start from the beginning.

What is Critical Race Theory?

It’s a form of activism that originally grew out of a Marxist-inspired academic movement called Critical Theory.

Like all Marxist thinking, Critical Theory teaches that *power* is the most important thing in the world. And that all of history, politics, and culture is just a big scam by powerful people to oppress others.

Whenever proponents of Critical Theory want to target a person or group, all they have to do is call it the “oppressor,” while claiming to speak for the “oppressed.”

But CRT takes the Marxist teaching that capitalists are the enemies and oppressors of workers, and makes it inescapable.

Here's how.

Marxism told workers that they were inherently oppressed. That itself was a lie, but at least it was a lie that real-world events could easily disprove.

Workers can escape their proletarian position, after all. And in fact, as the world became more free and more prosperous, many low-level laborers *did* rise from poverty and carve out wonderful lives for themselves and their families in the middle class.

But if you start with the idea that *non-whites* are inherently oppressed — that *white people* are their enemies and oppressors — and simply refuse to back down from that lie... then you've created a branch of Marxism more ruthless than the original.

After all, non-whites can't change the color of their skin. (Of course, nor should they want to!)

So critics of CRT can prove that non-white Americans are free and white Americans are less racist than ever. That no matter your race, you can find happiness and prosperity in the United States.

But to the true-believer in CRT, none of that matters.

As long as a person is black, he is oppressed. As long as a person is white, he is a member of the ruling class which must be dismantled.

This is why a wealthy, successful, powerful man like NBA star LeBron James can believe he belongs to an oppressed class. None of his privileges mean a thing, according to CRT. Only the fact that he is black.

And when, swept up in the #BlackLivesMatter trend, James publicly threatened a police officer on social media — no doubt terrifying the poor fellow and his family — proponents of CRT refused to see the power-differential between the two men.

While most of us saw a rich and powerful man bullying an ordinary, blue-collar cop, CRT saw only race: An oppressed black man “resisting” a white oppressor.

As you'll read in the next chapter, this nonsensical and racist way of thinking is exactly what CRT-promoters are trying to apply to your kids behind closed doors.

Chapter 2

Manipulation and Abuse: CRT in Practice

Resource Box: Like in our previous chapter, we'll start by providing a list. This time, it's a list of real acts of hate, racism, and manipulation perpetrated by education officials in the name of CRT's "anti-racism."

- **One state's Department of Education officially recommended a resource that said white babies are racist. White parents were instructed to begin teaching their babies about anti-racism and the evils of "whiteness" "even before their children can speak."**

Source: A reading resource that the Arizona Department of Education recommended for educators. [washingtonexaminer.com/news/arizona-education-baby-toddler-racism-three-months](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/arizona-education-baby-toddler-racism-three-months)

- **A public elementary school forced a classroom of third-graders to "rank" themselves by racial and sexual "identity," lining up in categories of greater and lesser "power and privilege," before the teacher finally separated them into two groups: "oppressors and oppressed."**

Source: city-journal.org/identity-politics-in-cupertino-california-elementary-school

- **A progressive charter school gave a student a failing grade and threatened to prevent his graduation because he refused to confess his "privilege." The student is biracial.**

Source: educationnext.org/critical-race-theory-collides-with-law/

- **The D.C.-based Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, a self-described "antiracist organization," published a piece calling for "antiracist grading." The "idea of what is successful at school is" is constructed through an "aggressively competitive white male lens," the piece argued.**

Source: ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sept20/vol78/num01/%C2%A3Antiracist%C2%A3Grading-Starts-with-You.aspx

- **Prominent education professor Bettina L. Love has argued that "White teachers need a particular type of therapy;" "anti-racist therapy" to confront the racism inside of them. At least one school district has recommended just that for its white employees.**

Sources: edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-white-teachers-need-anti-racist-therapy/2020/02 and city-journal.org/radicalism-in-san-diego-schools

CRT Hates Peace

Before we even look at what CRT *promotes*, it's worth mentioning what CRT is unapologetically *against*: Peace and harmony between school children of different backgrounds, and the timeless truth that we are all God's children.

Don't take our word for it!

When Tennessee lawmakers first moved to ban CRT from public and charter school curricula, the debate that followed on the State Senate floor was revealing.

The proposed bill would ban a number of teachings from public schools in Tennessee, including:

- that any race is superior to others,
- that the United States is “fundamentally or irredeemably” hateful toward women or non-white people,
- that any individual is “inherently” privileged or “oppressive,”
- that individuals are personally responsible for the actions of other members of their race, and
- that America ought to be violently overthrown.

Promoters of the bill explicitly cited the Christian understanding of the human person as made in the image and likeness of God, regardless of race.

But as CatholicVote reported at the time, while “many Americans would see Tennessee’s sanctions against racist and hateful teachings as common sense,” opponents of the bill had a very different perspective:

Sen. Katrina Robinson, D-Memphis, said she was “deeply and profoundly offended” by the bill.

Sen. Brenda Gilmore, D-Nashville, accused Republican proponents of the legislation of trying to revise American history. Americans must admit [that] “as a result of slavery, in 2021, racism still does exist.”

Sen. Raumesh Akbari, D-Memphis ... openly objected to the bill’s promotion of the idea that skin color is unimportant.

Up to this point, you’ve read plenty of examples of CRT that are obviously *anti-white*. That in itself is concerning.

But consider the other side of the coin.

Standing against CRT isn’t only a matter of protecting children like the above-mentioned seven-year-old white girl in Tennessee from public shaming at school.

As author Lewis Ungit recently put it:

Imagine a young person comes to you and asks for advice on how to succeed and you tell them, “Everyone hates you. They have always hated you. The system is built to hold you back and ... when you fail, it is the fault of the system, not your own fault.” Would that be good advice?

Is that likely to lead to a generation of happy, mentally healthy minorities? The worst part is that CRT proponents don't even know the answer.

But they're determined to force their social experiment on our nation's children anyway.

It's up to us to stop them.

CHAPTER 3

Catholicism vs. Racism

Resource Box: Here are some of the basic tenets of Christianity against racism from a *Catholic* perspective.

- St. Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28: **Under Christ’s rule, there “is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free ... for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”**
- “Created in the image of the one God and equally endowed with rational souls, all men have the same nature and the same origin,” the Catechism states. “Redeemed by the sacrifice of Christ, all are called to participate in the same divine beatitude: all therefore enjoy an equal dignity.” (CCC, 1934)
- “Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental personal rights on the grounds of sex, race, color, social conditions, language, or religion must be curbed and eradicated as incompatible with God’s design,” according to the Catechism. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), 1935)

These brief phrases are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the antidotes to racism you can find in the rich history and tradition of the Christian West. Let’s look deeper.

Catholicism vs. Racism

The New Testament offers many verses that, in the long run of history, could not coexist with racial bigotry and slavery.

St. Paul wrote that there is “neither slave nor free” among us, since Our Lord calls us all equally. (Galatians 3:28) Paul also wrote to a slave owner, telling him to treat his slave like “a dear brother.” (Philemon 16) Clearly, Paul here suggested that there was something very wrong with slavery. After all, who would keep his “dear brother” imprisoned and force him to work without pay?

CRT’s Approach Doesn’t Work

CRT deals with racism by insisting the whole moral landscape of the world is a power-struggle between whites and non-whites. The goal of CRT’s “antiracism” is simply to wrestle power away from white people — a final, brutal victory after a centuries-long winner-takes-all race war. For CRT, non-whites can’t win unless whites lose, because the struggle is a zero-sum game.

But to Christian ears this all sounds terribly wrong.

Christians view power with suspicion, and handle it — should we find ourselves in possession of it — with extreme caution and care.

Our founding fathers did exactly that. They rebelled against the king, not because they hated him for his power or wanted it for themselves, but because he had *abused* his power.

When they went on to form the American government, far from taking advantage of their influence to secure power for themselves, they took great precautions to frame our Constitution in a way that would defuse and limit the power of the government.

Christians also don't believe that people who are unequal in power are therefore unequal in dignity and worth.

We believe that the helpless Child born in the manger is the King of Kings. And that poor, unarmed preachers like St. Francis of Assisi are great saints, while masters of war and conquest can be "last in the Kingdom of God."

Even at the high watermark of Christian political power, in the late Middle Ages, Catholic saints reminded princes that their power was fleeting — and that God would judge them by whether they treated the powerless as brothers and sisters.

That kind of thinking permeated the whole Western world, and you can still find it in American culture today.

It's an American habit to reach across tribal and racial divides, most importantly in times of tragedy. After the attack on America on September 11, 2001, for example, Americans of every race from all over the country traveled to New York City to comfort the bereaved, rescue survivors, and help clean up the toxic debris of Ground Zero.

These are Christian, Western cultural norms. And they are the exact opposite of authoritarian racism, hatred, and bigotry.

So when you stand up for Christianity and American patriotism and against CRT, don't be afraid of the lie that you are being "racist." No, you are standing on the shoulders of the true anti-racist giants of the past — while CRT rejects them and threatens to revive racism like never before!

If you're reading this pamphlet, you are among those who aren't fooled by CRT. Together with millions of other Christians, American patriots, and concerned parents, you are leading the way to getting America back on track — on the path of racial peace, of harmony, and of "liberty and justice for all."

And finally: Feel free to contact us at any point along the way.

Because CatholicVote is here to help lead America forward too.

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