

SOCIAL JUSTICE GLOSSARY

POSTMODERNISM

- **The postmodern knowledge principle:** Radical skepticism about whether objective knowledge or truth is obtainable and a commitment to cultural constructivism.
- **The postmodern political principle:** A belief that society is formed of systems of power and hierarchies, which decide what can be known and how.

CULTURAL MARXISM

- The term [Cultural Marxism](#) is meant to acknowledge the historical and philosophical roots of much of the woke movement - being tied to Classical Marxism - a 19th-century economic philosophy.
- [Karl Marx](#) was an atheistic naturalist who saw society in terms of the oppressed and oppressors. Core to Classical Marxist philosophy were the concepts of Class Theory and Conflict Theory. It necessitated a revolutionary overthrow of the existing systems in order to create an egalitarian utopia via redistribution.

INTERSECTIONALITY

- Intersectionality considers the multiple intersections of oppressed identities that a person may suffer under in order to figure out how to privilege them to compensate for their perceived disadvantages in life. Intersectionality divides society into privileged and oppressed classes according to group identities such as race, gender, sexuality, physical characteristics, immigration status, religion, etc.

CRITICAL THEORY

- "A critical theory is chiefly concerned with revealing hidden biases and underexamined assumptions, usually by pointing out what have been termed "problematics," which are ways in which society and the systems that it operates upon are going wrong." (Lindsay & Pluckrose, [Cynical Theories](#), 14)

STANDPOINT EPISTEMOLOGY

- It believes in "standpoint epistemology" which says that people of visible oppressed/minority groups have access to "special knowledge" by mere virtue of their "lived experience" as a minority which people in the majority cannot have access to.
- It believes that if knowledge is a construct of power, which functions through ways of talking about things, knowledge can be changed and power structures toppled by changing the way people talk about things. **Thus, change the language, change the world.** If you control what people can say, you also control what they can think.

SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION & VICTIMHOOD

- It assumes that oppression is everywhere. **Oppression is the lens through which the woke view the world.** It believes that power differentials and authority structures are the great evil of the world because authority by its very nature is oppressive.
- "The key to social and intellectual legitimacy is to be a victim, or, if one has little or no concrete personal experience of being a victim, to be a member of a recognised victim group." (Robert Martin) Members of victim classes are elevated and given preferential treatment.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Christian Books for Personal Study/Small Groups

- [Confronting Injustice without Compromising Truth: 12 Questions Christians Should Ask About Social Justice](#) by Thaddeus J. Williams
- [Christianity and Wokeness: How the Social Justice Movement Is Hijacking the Gospel - and the Way to Stop It](#) by Owen Strachan
- [Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe](#) by Dr. Voddie Baucham
- [Why Social Justice Is Not Biblical Justice: An Urgent Appeal to Fellow Christians in a Time of Social Crisis](#) by Scott David Allen
- [What Every Christian Needs to Know About Social Justice](#) by Jeffrey Johnson

Non-Christian Books for Further Study

- [Cynical Theories: How Activist Scholarship Made Everything about Race, Gender, and Identity and Why This Harms Everybody](#) by James Lindsey & Helen Pluckrose
- [The Victim Cult: How the Culture of Blame Hurts Everyone and Wrecks Civilizations](#) by Mark Milke
- [From Truth Comes Reconciliation: Assessing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report](#) by Rodney Clifton and Mark DeWolf
- [Discrimination and Disparities](#) by Thomas Sowell

You can also find helpful resources and book reviews on Neil Shenvi's [website](#) or the [Center for Biblical Unity](#). For resources on Canadian issues, check out [Woke Watch Canada](#), [Lauren Southern](#), and [James Pew](#).