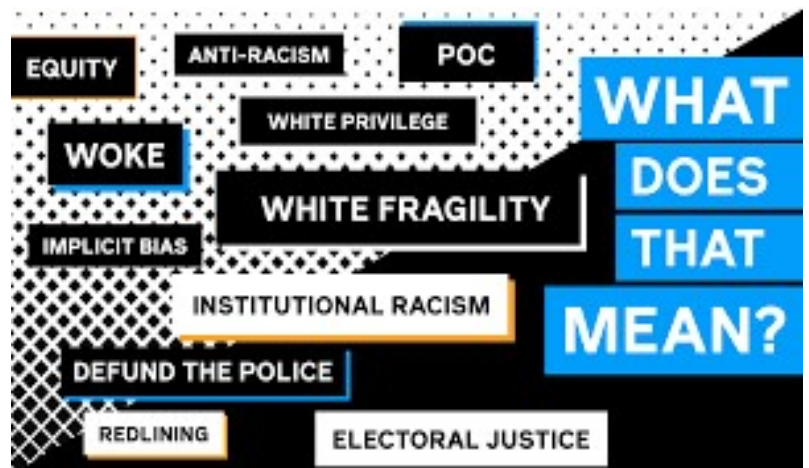


Ethnic Gnosticism

Ethnic Gnosticism | Dr. Voddie Baucham https://youtu.be/lp3nV6S_fYU

1. Gnosticism – special knowledge; immediate knowledge; knowledge that does not have to be mediated through a source; intuitive knowledge; a knowledge that separates insiders from outsiders.
2. Ethnic Gnosticism – A term Voddie Baucham coined to explain the phenomenon of people believing that somehow because of one's ethnicity one can then know when something is racist. (A saying from the 90's: It's a black thing – you wouldn't understand.)
 - a. If a statement/look is made/given, then a person from an oppressed group knows it is racist.
 - b. According to the concept of White Privilege, "You don't know what you don't know." Further - "You don't know what you don't know, **but I do.**"
 - i. "That's not what I meant." Reply – "That's just your privilege speaking."
 - ii. A belief that because of one's ethnicity/minority group, you know what oppression is and feels like, and do not necessarily have to have evidence of it.
 - iii. Other people in a position of not being a minority and therefore not oppressed; oppress people without thinking about it and not aware they have privilege.
 1. The phrase is – ***"You don't know what you don't know, so you have to be taught how racist you are, but no one has to teach me when you are racist."***



3. Rooted in Cultural Marxism

- a. Different than Classic Marxism where the world is divided into two groups (Have's & Have not or Bourgeoisie & Proletariat) but Cultural Marxism divides people into; those that establish and benefit from the Cultural Hegemony and everyone else that is oppressed by it because they are not part of that dominant group.
- b. Goes beyond just Black & White
 - i. Transgender, Homo-sexual or Women also possess this special knowledge.
 1. Because you may be a part of the dominant group then you are not aware of these *struggles* and "You don't know what you don't know!"
 - a. You are a racist, bigot, homophobic and every other kind of phobic person you could possibly be.
 - i. Whether you are a Christian or not because evidently this issue evades the Cross.
- c. Based on the concept that my identity is determined by the "Group" to which I belong.
 - i. Major essence of my identity
 - ii. My group – ethnicity, gender, sex, etc.....
- d. My identity is understood in the context of our (the Group) *struggle*.
 - i. The idea of our shared cultural experience and identity.
 1. Media has a lot to do with shaping this Group Identity and therefore the *struggle*.
 2. Stereo-Types - Voddie's children and Black family member conversation
 - a. Why is it NOT racist for the black family member to say what he said but if a white person said it then it WOULD be racist?
 - b. This is the problem with Ethnic Gnosticism
 - i. I know it is racist because I am part of that group
 - ii. You do not know what you do not know, and I reserve the right to determine the meaning.

Jeremiah 17:9 – "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" **I can't understand what's in my own heart and I'm going to tell you what 's in yours?**

4. Ethnicity and Culture are good and natural connections.
 - a. It is not right to use the term **“Color Blind.”**
 - i. Because no one is, it is not possible.
 - ii. It is an affront to God.
 1. “God didn’t give me all this rich beautiful melanin so you can act like I don’t have it. And it’s wrong for me to judge you because you don’t have as much!”
 - a. God did this and it is good and natural.
 - b. Color of roses – Praise Him for it.
 2. It is not right, and it is not possible
 - a. Evidence offered – friend this color and that color
 - b. How do you know if you are color blind?
 - b. Ethnic and National Identity is good and important.
 - i. Being Color Blind takes us away from that
 - ii. Ethnic and National Identity teach us dependence and humility.
 1. No single group possesses all the good.
 2. No single group possesses all knowledge.
 - iii. Teaches Providence
 1. Every culture has a history they can trace.
 - a. We would not have written it the way it happened, but God brought each culture and nationality through = Providence.
 - b. If you ignore ethnicity and culture you do not see Providence
 - c. Consequences of sin- “America’s chickens have come home to roost”
 - i. Multigenerational consequences of horrible sins and atrocities
 - ii. There is consequence of sin – we are dealing with the fruit of sin
 - iii. Ethnic and National Identity is important but not everything

5. A Better Way – Romans 9:1-8

a. *I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— 2 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, [a] my kinsmen according to the flesh. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.*

1. Paul loved his people passionately
2. Ethnicity is important

b. 6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, 7 and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 8 This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

i. Our connection to Christ is more important

ii. Ditch on both sides of the road

1. One says ethnicity means nothing – Color Blind
2. The other says its everything
 - a. Ethnic Gnosticism says we need to start in this ditch and not at the Cross

6. The danger of Ethnic Gnosticism and what it does

a. Compromises genuine relationships

i. False unity exposed

1. If you say the wrong thing you are Anathema
 - a. If I assume, I know your heart and you must assume you do not know what you do not know then this has created a relationship that is imbalanced and hinders intimacy.

- b. Purposes the Idea of guilt and innocence being inherited
 - i. White people can't NOT be Racist and Black people cannot BE Racist
 - ii. Tokenism – Matt Chandler on church planting
 - a. If white guy is an 8 and black guy is a 7 then go with the black guy
 - b. Received by Voddie as - Your skin color makes you the weaker brother and we must lower the standard for you.
 - i. If you are saying this amid repentance of your White Privilege, then you get a pass
 - iii. “Atonement and Activism” – John McWhorter
 - 1. White Privilege is the original sin
 - a. Penance is made by endless attesting to White Privilege in hope of some kind of forgiveness
 - b. It is a Cult of Atonement which has less to do about black people and more about white people
 - i. 50 years ago, white people learning about racism asked – “what can I do to help?”
 - ii. Today its more about how “how can I show that I am a moral person?”
 - 1. White people do not realize the forgiveness they seek is unattainable
 - 2. You will never be sorry enough
 - 2. NO matter what you have done in the past if you slip up on one of the issues then the rest of your life does not matter because you are a racist. And racism is the new unpardonable sin.

7. How do we deal with this?

a. We need to trust God's Word – not our feelings.

i. 1 Corinthians 13 - If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, [a] but have not love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; [b] 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

The takeaway –

What do you do when confronted by the issues of our day – Verse 7 above.

We do not face off against one another nor dismiss one another. And remember we have ALL sinned and fall short of the glory of God. We are one in-Christ!

Small Group Questions

1. How do we stay out of the ditches?
2. Describe “being one In-Christ.”
3. Why should we NOT be Color blind?
4. As a Believer how do you deal with racism?