

**Social Justice Biblically Assessed**  
**Week 3: Can a White Man Even Teach on This Topic? A Biblical Theory of Knowledge Versus the**  
**Standpoint Theory Dominating the Streets**  
Holy Trinity Sunday School, Fall 2021

**I. Beyond hearing the cry of the oppressed**

The essential perspective and account of those who have been wronged. Eccl 4:1

God hears: Exo 22:21-23, Ps 17:1

But more is at work here

**II. The Chilling of Public Discourse and Asking Such Questions**

A resignation letter

“Cancel Culture.”

Where is this rooted? One word: Epistemology

### III. The Basics of Standpoint Theory

*The big guns of the attack of a false philosophy and a false science are directed against [a theory of reality and a theory of knowledge]. We need not flatter ourselves that our theological structure will stand if these foundations should be destroyed. (Cornelius Van Til, A Christian Theistic Theory of Knowledge)*

Standpoint Theory

Neil Shenvi summary

*...critical theory claims that members of oppressed groups have special access to truth because of their “lived experience” of oppression. Such insight is unavailable to members of oppressor groups, who are blinded by their privilege. Consequently, any appeals to “objective evidence” or “reason” made by dominant groups are actually surreptitious bids for continued institutional power. This view is rooted in standpoint theory (organic to Marxism and repurposed by feminist theory), which argues that knowledge is conditioned and determined by social location. (Neil Shenvi,*

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/incompatibility-critical-theory-christianity/>)

Ethnic Gnosticism

### IV. The Basics of Christian Epistemology

You will have an epistemology:

*On the other hand every human being, if he thinks at all, must think about these concepts [of God, of man, of Christ, of salvation, of the church and of the last things]. Whether one be a scientist, a philosopher, a theologian, or all of these combined as most people are, one must say something about these concepts either explicitly or implicitly. It is for this reason that the distinction between “layman” and “professional” must not be drawn too sharply. (Cornelius Van Til, A Christian Theistic Theory of Knowledge)*

What then is a Christian epistemology?

*The Scriptures tell me that God knows all about all things. Suppose that this claim is true, would that help me? Would that make me know all things? No, it would not make me know all things but it would help me just the same. A child does not need to know all about the road he is to travel if only his father does. So also we may say that if God knows all about all things we can know all we need to know about ourselves. If God knows all things He must have created all things. God could not know all if all were not dependent upon him. God could not know this world if his rationality were not stamped upon it. Then too all knowledge that any human being has and possibly could have must be from God. It must be true then that we are created in the image of God. God's rationality is stamped upon me. Hence, if God exists, the knowledge that I seem to have, must be from God and therefore true. (Cornelius Van Til, A Christian Theistic Theory of Knowledge)*

1. God knows as the creator, independently and exhaustively Psa 139:1-4
  
2. We can have true knowledge because of God

Conclusion: We can know and we have a responsibility

**V. Exhortation: Beware of the Conservative Counterfeit – Conveniently Borrowing Capital**

Rationalism

*The rationalist pretends that man can without the aid of God solve all the problems that face the human mind. (Cornelius Van Til, A Christian Theistic Theory of Knowledge)*

## Flee Hypocrisy

*Proverbs 28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.*

*James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*