

Social Justice Biblically Assessed
Week 4: Into the Winds and Waves of Worldly Philosophies: Marx, Gramsci, Frankfurt School
Holy Trinity Sunday School, Fall 2021

Eph 4:11-14 *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, (12) to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, (13) until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, (14) so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.*

a. Brief Review:

i. The Path to Understanding Justice: Proverbs 28:5 *Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand it completely.*

ii. Biblical Justice is Defined by the Transcendent Standard of God's Word

iii. Epistemology

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.

II. The Basics of Marxism

a. A New Dominant Worldview

b. Karl Marx's concern with power and oppression

- c. The Foundations behind Marx's thinking (Carlton Wynne - 2019 Herrell Lecture at WTS, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-YU1rBb2icE>)
 - i. An atheistic, materialistic, and economic account of the construction of human identity through social justice.
 - ii. Man moves from a primitive self-consciousness (Hegel) to complete self-consciousness as economic production develops across different kinds of relationships.
 - iii. Human realization and economic salvation through revolution by the proletariat (i.e. workers), leading to a communist utopia.

- d. Ideas Have Consequences

III. Understanding Worldview Thinking: The Importance of the Antithesis

- a. "The Right Side of History."

- b. What is the Antithesis:
 - i. A conflict that defines world history / a fundamental struggle

 - ii. Originated with Satan and the fall of man: Genesis 3:14-15

 - iii. Presently cuts down to every person, every action, even every thought

iv. Comes to its climax in world history at the judgment (Revelation 20:7-9)

c. False worldviews have their own version of the antithesis

IV. Rise of Critical Theory

a. Cultural Marxism / Identity politics / Ideological social justice - basics

b. The elements of truth

V. The Full Blown New Religion

Dr. Joshua Mitchell of Georgetown University

(<https://gufaculty360.georgetown.edu/s/contact/00336000014Rh8tAAC/joshua-mitchell>)

a. Guilt and transgression –

b. Identity –

c. Original sin –

d. Atonement –

e. The Judgment -

f. Worldly Alternative –

VI. Let Us Take Every Thought Captive

2 Corinthians 10:5 *We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.*