

Critical Theory as Religion

Critical Theory as an all-encompassing explanation of everything in life and offers answers to all the important questions of life. In that way, it **behaves as, and should be regarded as, a religion**. In fact, CT/W is a direct competitor to all other religions but most especially to Christianity.

Worldview Question	Christianity	Contemporary Critical Theory
Who am I?	A creature made in God's image	A member of various social groups locked in a struggle for dominance
What is the fundamental human problem?	Sin	Oppression/ <i>Whiteness</i>
How can that problem be solved?	Redemption through Jesus <i>Forgiveness</i>	Activism and solidarity
What is my primary moral duty?	Glorifying God	Dismantling unjust systems and structures
How do I know the truth?	Revelation and reason	Lived experience
What is the end goal of history?	The new heaven and earth	Social justice

Table 3. Worldview questions answered by Christianity versus contemporary critical theory

In effect, the new "faith" of CT/W has for all intents and purposes been adopted by our government as the new "**State Religion**" and, the State is now in the process of using all the levers of governmental power at its disposal to convert/coerce all citizens, especially children, to this rival faith. It is an effort now being directed at the capture of all the institutions in our society --- the media, the bureaucracies and agencies of government; the military; the law; the family; the Church; medicine, etc. But, nowhere is it being pushed more forcefully than in realm of education. From Pre-K through the university, our schools are seen as "soft targets" that offer a great "payback" as young minds, indoctrinated into this alien view of reality and the human person, prove to be very difficult to change later in life.

Therefore, those who are intent on converting and subverting the nation and our culture are **continually attempting to infuse the above four elements of critical theory into our public education system and through it, into our children and our entire culture**. To do so, a multi-pronged strategy has been developed and is being employed.

How is this new religion -- Critical Theory – being infused into our educational system?

These are the primary agencies and mechanisms being used to advance CT/W:

- 1) The **Federal Government**
 - a) Executive Orders ... Pres. Obama’s “Dear Colleague” letter re transgenderism
 - b) Bureaucratic Rule Making and Selective Funding ... Department of Education ... “carrots and sticks”
 - c) Judicial action at all levels ... Obergefell ... Bostock ... Jack Phillips, etc.
 - d) Legislative Actions ... The ERA, The Respect for Marriage Act, etc.

- 2) Micromanagement by the **Minnesota State legislature:**
 - a) The Ethnic Studies mandate of 2023 --- no specific course required for graduation, HOWEVER, the Critical Theory content is now required in every course, at every grade-level. This was passed by the 2023 Minnesota Legislature and signed into law by Governor Walz.
 - b) The “Conversion Therapy” Ban (a misnomer) Minnesota now restrict the speech of all licensed therapists preventing them from offering help in reducing same-sex attraction or gender dysphoria.
 - c) Legislative action, this year, requires public schools to stock menstrual products in boys bathrooms for grades 4 through 12.

- 3) Micromanagement by the **Minnesota Department of Education**
 - a) The new Social Studies Content Standards (in the final stages of being adopted) imposes these concepts of Critical Theory as required content for all social studies courses at all grade levels and in all standardized testing.
 - b) The MDE actively promotes the adoption of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs in all schools, including religious schools (“Friendzy”), as a means of “making education more relevant to students’ lives”. SEL is the excuse allowing schools to go beyond teaching your child academic knowledge and allowing them to manipulate their opinions, attitudes and religious beliefs.
 - c) 2017 MDE releases its “Transgender Toolkit” --- allows students to access bathrooms, locker rooms and sports teams or the opposite sex
 - d) 2019 Student Survey ... asks 15 year-olds to identify whether they identify as “transgender”, “genderqueer”, “nonbinary”. “pansexual”, “questioning” etc.

- 4) Micromanagement by **the Governor** through the Teacher Licensing process and the **PELSBI Board (Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board)**.

a) **All new teachers** seeking a State Teaching License must demonstrate both a knowledge of and commitment to Critical Theory concepts.

b) requires that teachers "affirm student's self-proclaimed sexual identities"

b) **All current teachers** wanting to renew their MN State teaching license. This renewal is required every 5 years. A retraining program known as "cultural competency" incorporates all elements of wokeism.

c) **All colleges and universities** which certify students for State licensure must actively teach and promote the concepts of Critical Theory. This includes teacher training programs run by religiously affiliated institutions such as Concordia, St. Paul; Bethany Lutheran College of Mankato and Martin Luther College of New Ulm, and others.

5) **Parents are often being systematically excluded**. Often they are kept unaware of this new content in education. Sometimes specific policies are adopted by school districts to prevent parent access to general information about the curriculum being taught and specific information about their own children in matters of sexuality / transsexuality. Rather than treating parents as the primary authority in the life of their children as they are, frequently they are viewed as and treated as "obstacles" to the school's attempt, as an agent of the State, to claim that primary authority.

For example, **HF146 / SF63**, signed into law by Gov. Walz on 4/27/23, now makes it legal for the State of Minnesota to **take custody away from parents, if they fail to provide "gender-affirming healthcare" for their child**. That is, failure to allow puberty-blocking drugs or cross-sex hormones, or gender-transition surgery now constitutes "abuse and neglect of a child" under State law

6) **Removal of protections for children against pedophiles**. The Minnesota Legislature passed the "Take Pride Act" (HF1655) and it was signed into law by Governor Walz. It removes the explicit legal protections that had been in place under the Minnesota Human Rights Act preventing access to children by pedophiles in preschools, daycare centers, and other facilities. Where there was legal clarity before, now there is ambiguity. This was clearly done with great intentionality.

7) **The Equal Rights Amendment** to the Minnesota State Constitution was passed by the MN Senate in 2023 and will likely be taken up by the MN House in 2024. Would place the Amendment on the 2024 statewide ballot. Among other things, adopting this change to our State Constitution would insure that "gender identity or expression" will become a new protected class and allow males into female-only spaces such as prisons, restrooms, locker rooms, sports teams, etc. This new Constitutional right would override all religious liberty and parental rights objections.

So, what's NOT going on in our schools?

Answer: The kinds of basic education in the basic academic subjects that parents and society-at-large expect and need..

With so much in the way of “new content” and efforts at “social engineering” commanding so much attention, **what’s being sacrificed** is the kind of **basic education** that schools exist to provide. With standardized test scores diving and proficiency rates at abysmal levels, one hears very little expressions of concern from anyone in the educational establishment.

For example, across the State of Minnesota, on average, **less than 50% of students are able to achieve a level of “basic proficiency” in reading and math.** This of course means that many schools have proficiency levels far below 50%. Indeed, in many schools no students are able to meet this standard.

This educational deficit is also shown in the high percentage of college freshmen coming from Minnesota public schools that must take remedial courses before they can actually begin their college courses.

So are there any solutions to this very unfortunate situation?

Among the few bright spots in this area is the dramatic advance in parental awareness the deep problems in public education and the empowerment of parents allowing them to freely chose school options other than public education

This empowerment is coming by means of new school choice programs, most especially through **Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)**. These are programs which give parents direct control over the funds which the State allocates for each child in the State and allows those funds to be used at any school the parent chooses, including religious schools.. These programs are now operating in 10 states across the country (IA, FL, IN, AZ, UT, NC, AR, OH, WV, etc.) and are rapidly advancing in many other states.

By financially empowering parents to place their children in the school of their choice, not only are children given a better education, but, both private and public schools are held accountable to parents as the ultimate authority in the life of children.

Rev. Fredric Hinz

Want to learn more? Check out these resources:

- 1) Opportunity for All Kids (OAK) -- oakmn.org Primary schools choice organization in MN.
- 2) “State of Distortion” by Katherine Kersten Fall 2023 issue of Thinking Minnesota ... a publication of the Center of the American Experiment
- 3) “America’s Cultural Revolution” by Christopher Rufo
- 4) “The Weaponization of Loneliness” by Stella Morabito