

**Sunday**

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**August 16th, 2020**

**WHAT**

**ANSWERS  
GROUNDED**

**&**

**IN FAITH  
AND HOPE**

**WHY**

WHAT

1 PETER

&

3:13-15

WHY

# I Peter 3:13-17

**13** Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

**14** But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

**15** but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,

**always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you;**

yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**16** having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

**17** For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

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**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because  
God is real** .

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# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

**God is infinite and personal** .



# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

**God is sovereign and providential** .

# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

**God is the source of absolute truth.**

# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

**God gives us meaning and purpose.**

# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

**God provides a solution to  
the basic problem of humanity** .

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# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because**

**God has dealt with both our  
temporal lives and eternal destiny .**

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# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because  
God is faithful**.

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# WHAT & WHY

**Why do you have hope?**

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**I have hope because  
a relationship with God  
sets me truly free** .

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**We have hope because God sets us  
free rather than restricting us.**



Psychology Today by Michael Formica

## The Trap of our Dissatisfaction

When we are infants, we're pretty much all set.

We eat, we sleep, we poop - we're good.

The trouble starts when we begin to get a sense of ourselves, and we fall into the trap of what the wisdom teachings might refer to as our narcissistic delusion, which is something that we are more likely to call "It's all about me".

Just as soon as we cross the boundary from survival needs to social needs, we are inevitably doomed to foster a sense of our own perpetual dissatisfaction;  
a conflict that is at the core of the human condition.

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### Genesis 3:1-9

- 1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman,  
"Did God actually say,  
    'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
- 2** And the woman said to the serpent,  
    "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
- 3** but God said,  
    'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the  
    midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you  
    die.'"
- 4** But the serpent said to the woman,  
    "You will not surely die.

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    die.'"
- 4 But the serpent said to the woman,  
    "You will not surely die.

**5** For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

**7** Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

**8** And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

**9** But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him,

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**"Where are you?"**

*I've decided to do my own thing,*



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...to determine truth for myself,

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**"Where are you?"**

*I've decided* to do my own thing,

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...to hide my guilt and shame by rationalizing my behavior as reasonable autonomy.

**...to replace your authority with my own.**

## Romans 12:1-2

- 1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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‘intrinsically good, good in nature, good whether it be seen to be so or not’;  
*...”excelling in any and every respect, distinguished and distinctive”.*

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...”not just the best option but the optimal option”.*



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‘complete in all its parts, full grown, of full age,  
specially of the completeness of Christian character’  
*...“the dynamic rather than static work of God toward our maturity”.*

**The 'spirit of our day'... 'Zeitgeist'**

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# The 'spirit of our day' ... 'Zeitgeist'

*... 'the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time' ...*

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*...'the defining spirit or mood of a particular period of history as shown by the ideas and beliefs of the time'...*

**...is a growing allegiance to the deconstruction of history and the rejection of authority as inherently oppressive.**

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**Critical Theory**

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"to liberate human beings from the circumstances that enslave them."

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## Critical Theory

"to liberate human beings from the circumstances that enslave them."

**A group is identified as the oppressor rather than an individual...**



Critical Theory:

Christianity:

Critical Theory:

Oppression

-

Deconstruction

-

Redistribution

-

Liberation

Christianity:

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Deconstruction

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Liberation

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Creation

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Fall

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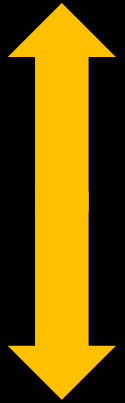
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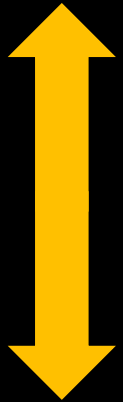
Fall

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## The worldview of Critical Theory:

The story of critical theory begins not with creation, but with oppression. The omission of a creation element is very important because it changes our answer to the question: “who are we?”

If there is no transcendent Creator who has a purpose and a design for our lives and our identities, then we don't primarily exist in relation to God, but in relation to other people and to other groups. Our identity is not defined primarily in terms of who we are as God's creatures. Instead, we define ourselves in terms of race, class, sexuality, and gender identity.

Oppression, not sin, is our fundamental problem.

**What is the solution?** Activism or even anarchy. Change structures.

Raising awareness. We work to overthrow and dismantle hegemonic power. That is our primary moral duty.

**What is the purpose of life?** To work for the liberation of all oppressed groups so that we can achieve a state of equality.

**The worldview of Christianity:  
taken from Back To Freedom and Dignity; Francis Schaffer**

Democracy, freedom without chaos, as we know it in western civilization, was built on the Reformation and it has not existed anywhere else, including the small city states in Greece long ago. This cannot be built or last long without the position outlined by the rule of law as opposed to human dictatorship. When one removes the Bible in which God has spoken propositionally and therefore establishing a Judeo-Christian consensus, freedom without chaos will not long remain. It can't. Something will take its place, and it will be one of the elites.



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**'White' .... 'Male' .... 'Christian'**

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**The work of Christ was for the purpose of our freedom...**

# The work of Christ was for the purpose of our freedom...

## John 8:31-36

- 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him,  
    “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,  
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
- 33 They answered Him,  
    “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved  
    to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”
- 34 Jesus answered them,  
35 “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to  
    sin.
- 36 The slave does not remain in the house forever;  
    the son remains forever.
- 37 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

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35 “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to  
sin. *The rejection and misrepresentation of the authority of God in favor of our own.*  
36 The slave does not remain in the house forever;  
the son remains forever.  
37 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

**We have hope because the truth sets us  
free rather than restricting us.**

**We have hope because the truth sets us  
free** to embrace the will of God  
because it is good,  
acceptable,  
and perfect.



**We have hope because the truth sets us  
free** to deal with the perpetual  
dissatisfaction that drives us  
toward autonomy from God.

**We have hope because the truth sets us  
free** to take responsibility for the  
brokenness and rebellion of  
our own lives.

**We have hope because the truth sets us free** to accept the grace that God offers us free of charge in the redemptive and restorative work of Christ.

**We have hope because the truth sets us  
free** to take responsibility for  
what it means to give grace  
for those around us.

