

Introduction:

Last week we looked at “Cancel Culture” this week “Woke” or “Being Woke.” What Does It Mean? How does it relate to Christianity? Should Christians be “woke”?

I) Defining “Woke”

A) **Woke – short definition, to be in the know, to be alert, tuned in.**

1. An awareness of issues that concern social injustice and racial injustice. It is sometimes used in the African-American vernacular English expression – “stay woke”
 - a. The African-American novelist William Melvin Kelley wrote the earliest known use of the word under its new definition in an article titled, “If you’re woke, you dig it”.
 - b. Ten years later in 1972, a character in the Barry Beckham play *Garvey Lives!* says he’ll “stay woke” via the work of pan-Africanist, Marcus Garvey, with the line: “I been sleeping all my life. And now that Mr Garvey done woke me up, I’m gon stay woke. And I’m gon’ help him wake up other black folk”.
2. Key component is awareness of “social injustice.” We should all be aware social injustice does occur.
3. A term used connected to “woke” is “white privilege.”
 - a. Being white in our society automatically gives those white people an advantage which others do not have.

- b. Tends to look at things like skin color, or ethnic background, not other factors.

B) Reason for the statement “woke”

1. Not all of us are of the same economic level, social status.
2. There are inequities in life.
 - a. Not everyone born in a well to do family, safe neighborhood, go to a good school.
 - b. Not everyone is born into a family unit with two parents, etc.

II) Differences creates barriers.

A) People tend to view another group as being the “enemy”. Those people, them folks, etc.

1. Those on the other side has it easier, you can't trust them.
2. Tends to dehumanize others.
 - a. Parable of the “Good Samaritan”

Luke 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tempted Him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? 26 He said to him, What is written in the law? How do you read it? 27 And answering, he said, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. 28 And He said to him, You have answered right, do this and you shall live. 29 But he, willing to justify himself, said to Jesus, And who is my neighbor?

- b. the rest of the parable is answering that question.
- c. Why was the question raised? To get around the law? To narrow down one's obligations?

Luke 10:30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. **31** "Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. **32** "Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. **33** "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. **34** "So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. **35** "On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' **36** "So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" **37** And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

- d. One's obligation does not change just because somebody has different color skin, or is poor, or is rich, etc.

III) The Bible Addresses "Social Issues" and "Injustices"

A) Life Is Not Always Fair

1. Sin brought pain, suffering, and death into the world.
2. We can see inequities in life- baby born with terminal illness, accident kills the mother of two young children, son gunned down in the streets.
3. Some inequities are because of the situations we are born with.

Luke 16:19 *"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 "But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate,*

- a. There are people born into poverty others into wealth, some born with great physical abilities others limited, some great skills others limited.
- b. Jesus did not come to stop all physical suffering or all poverty.

John 12:8 *"For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."*

3. I am not saying we should be indifferent to suffering but if we think we can make heaven here on earth where all suffering, tears, and heart aches disappear we are going to fail.

B) Beware of attitudes and self-justification.

1. There were some people in the Bible who did "the right thing" but with bad motives.
 - a. Joab- killed Abner **2 Samuel 3.27** and then killed

Amasa, commander of David's army, **2 Samuel 20.9-10**.

1 Kings 2:5 *"Moreover you know also what Joab the son of Zeruiah did to me, and what he did to the two commanders of the armies of Israel, to Abner the son of Ner and Amasa the son of Jether, whom he killed. And he shed the blood of war in peacetime, and put the blood of war on his belt that was around his waist, and on his sandals that were on his feet.*

- b. Jehu became king of Northern Israel, **2 Kings 9**.
- c. He killed all the household of Ahab, **2 Kings 9 & 10**; He proceeded to kill the prophets of Baal.

2 Kings 10:28 *Thus Jehu destroyed Baal from Israel.*

- d. Was his motives pure? He was not zealous for God but for calf worship!

2 Kings 10:29 *However Jehu did not turn away from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin, that is, from the golden calves that were at Bethel and Dan.*

- 2. Beware of impure motives such as jealousy, covetousness, and envy.

- a. Jealousy – we are focused on what is ours. Don't want to share.

Proverbs 27:4 *Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, But who is able to stand before jealousy?*

- b. Envy – to look with ill will, we are envious of another person’s possessions. Don’t want them to have it.

Romans 1:29 *being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,*

Galatians 5:21 *envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

Matthew 27:18 *For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.*

- c. Covetous – the thing becomes our focus, a form of idolatry

Colossians 3:5 *Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.*

- 3. Are we acting out of love for our neighbor, for God, or to harm?

C) The Bible and “social issues”

- 1. Helping the poor – O.T.
 - a. not charge interest, ***Exodus 22.25***
 - b. Not glean your fields so the poor can gather from your fields – ***Lev. 19.10***

- c. Not show partiality either for or against the poor – **Lev. 19.15**
 - d. Not compel a fellow Jew who sells himself to you to serve as a slave- **Lev. 25.39**
2. Helping the poor – N.T.
- a. Individuals helping the needy –
Matthew 25:34 *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' 40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*
 - b. A lot is contained in **Galatians 6.10**.
Galatians 6:10 *Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*
3. Slavery is addressed in servants and masters responsibility

to each other.

IV) Are Christians to Be “Woke”

A) In the sense of examining ourselves.

1 Corinthians 16:14 *Let all that you do be done with love.*

2 Corinthians 13:5 *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? --unless indeed you are disqualified.*

1. Keep in mind “woke” means to be aware and be alert.
2. Don’t be pointing fingers until you have examined yourself.

B) In the sense of thinking of others

Philippians 2:3 *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,*

1. I realize I grew up a white male and have little idea of what it means to be a female, or of another skin color.
2. It doesn’t make “them” right but it doesn’t make them my enemy either.

C) In the sense of not prejudging others, prejudice

1. Toward the well-off compared to the poor.
2. Toward one skin color over another.

1 Peter 1:17 *And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct*

yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear;

Conclusion:

Each one of us will stand before the Judgement seat to give account for what we have done, **2 Corinthians 5.10**.