

CURRENT EVENTS

Wokeism

GENERAL DEFINITION:

To be 'woke' means to be aware of and actively attentive to issues of injustice in culture, systems, and persons. A person who is not aware or attentive is not 'woke' but asleep. But one who is aware or attentive is 'awake' or 'woke.'

TAUGHT BY:

Woke is one piece of Marxism. In other words, wokeism can be thought of as a religious system combined with activism – all rooted in cultural Marxism.

FURTHER DEFINITIONS:

Culture: shared judgments about the good (ethics), the beautiful (art), and the true (logic).

Western Culture: done with Greek modes of thinking with Judeo/Christian judgments on the good, the beautiful, and the true.

We can't be naïve. History has indeed shown us that mankind has had the capacity to financially, physically, racially, and/or mentally exploit particular groups of people. Scripture has shown us this too. Consider the stories of Pharaoh and Moses; Xerxes and Esther; Babylone and Judah; Rome and Israel. And so, the mindset of oppression and exploitation of other human beings for unjust reasons is sinful. It is wrong. It happens. And when it does, it should be corrected.

Now, it is also important to keep in mind that nations and cultures will assign values of good and bad to ethics, art, and logic. Furthermore, nations and cultures will often support ethics, art, and logic that they deem to be good, right, and salutary. The nations and culture will often frown upon ethics, art, and logic that they deem to be detrimental, bad, and hurtful.

So, what does all of this mean? And, how does it apply to being woke?

To understand the implications of all of this, it is best to understand the stages/process of social justice and being woke:

Stage 1 – Become Awake: identify an inequality.

Stage 2 – Identify oppressor and oppressed.

Stage 3 – Assign value of evil to an oppressor.

Stage 4 – Assign value of good to oppressed.

Stage 5 – Seek vengeance/revolution on oppressor to bring about equality (balance the injustice) via social justice, canceling, etc.

Stage 6 – An utopia is established, once equality has been obtained.

This all makes sense. Who does not want to correct injustices? However, there are several very important things to consider:

- 1) If there is an identified inequality in a culture or nation, one first has to establish if an oppressor created the inequality or not. In other words, just because an inequality exists, it does not always mean it is due to an oppressor. Sometimes those in the category of oppressed are not really oppressed but have put themselves in such a position by their own decisions/actions.
- 2) A very good way to identify if there is an oppressor is to see if there is 'equal opportunity.' Oppressors do harm by not allowing for equal opportunity. If there is inequality, is there an equal opportunity?
- 3) If there is not equality and if there are oppressors not allowing for equal opportunity, it is important to discern if the oppressors or good or evil. For example, a morally just culture will not give equal opportunity for morally corrupt actions. A morally just nation will also oppress morally corrupt persons.
- 4) And so, if there is inequality, no equal opportunity, and evil oppressors, action should be taken to remedy. However, if there is inequality with equal opportunity, and if so-called oppressors are opposing morally corrupt actions, action is not needed – a revolution is unjust.

Discussion Questions:

- 1) What is the church's role in this topic?
- 2) Is this a right or left-hand kingdom issue?
- 3) Does the church use the categories of oppressed and oppressor?
- 4) What is the church's solution on this topic?
- 5) How can wokeism conflict with the Gospel?

