



PALMETTO FAMILY
MATTERS
MAGAZINE

IS C.R.T. IN YOUR HOMETOWN?

KNOW WHERE CRITICAL RACE THEORY IS &
WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT.



SENATOR JOSH KIMBRELL:
THE PLAN TO CUT STATE
INCOME TAXES IN HALF



MELANIE SHULL:
FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION &
THE NEW PRO-LIFE AGENDA



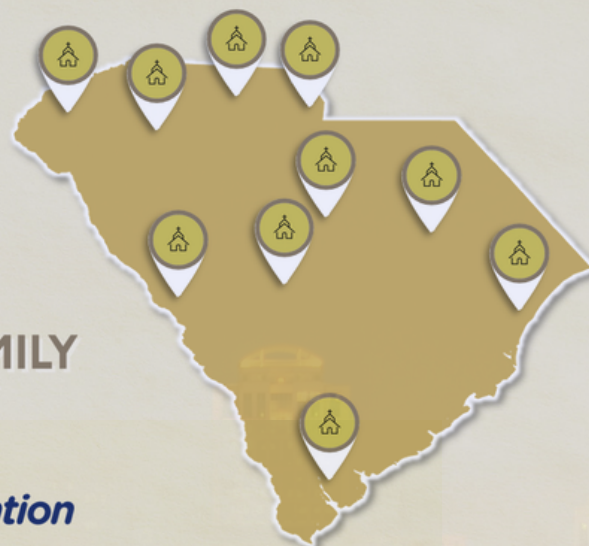
THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING



PALMETTO FAMILY
Pastors Network



**South Carolina
Baptist Convention**



Antioch International Church

**Fort Mill
October 12**

Brushy Creek Baptist Church

**Greenville
November 2**

East Pickens Baptist Church

**Pickens
October 19**

First Baptist Church

**North Spartanburg
November 4**

First Baptist Church

**Lexington
October 26**

Village Church

**Blythewood
November 11**

Florence Baptist Temple

**Florence
October 28**

Community Bible Church

**Beaufort
November 16**

Jamestown Baptist Church

**Myrtle Beach
December 2**

This fall, Palmetto Family, The South Carolina Baptist Convention, and our ONE Message Partners will host Pastors and Ministry Leaders across our state to create an atmosphere for open dialogue to discuss the issues we face in our state.



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Making South Carolina

a place where

God is honored,

religious freedom flourishes,

families thrive, and

life is cherished.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WE ARE THE GUARDRAILS

by Dave Wilson

Mountain views are always beautiful from the passenger seat — majestic cliffs, green gorges, rolling rivers. It was only when I began driving as a teen did I realize that the views, as spectacular as they were, also included some of the most death-defying drops.

I was reminded of this in March 2019 when I was traveling with four of our children to Knoxville, TN. We had left our home in Lexington about 5:30pm, and as we drove up I-26 toward Asheville, the sunset views were beautiful. But as I watched the shadows moving across the Blue Ridge Mountains, it hit me — I have to drive through these mountains at night... in the dark.



My mind quickly raced from the beautiful scenery before my eyes to the deep ravines and dark valleys that I could not see. I drove a little wearisome for several miles until I finally saw them — the guardrails and their reflectors that were guiding my path.

The GPS on my phone may have been giving me directions to my ultimate destination, but the reflectors on the guardrails were like a runway lit for final approach, clearly showing me the pathway to follow

I FINALLY SAW THEM — THE GUARDRAILS AND THEIR REFLECTORS THAT WERE GUIDING MY PATH.

For the last few years now, America has felt like it has entered a sunset period, beginning a slow descent below the horizon. Our society is seeing changes — deep ravines and dark valleys — that have too often made us feel as if we have cultural vertigo. Down is up and up is down.

Cancel culture, the LGBTQ+ agenda, critical race theory, transgenders in sports, and so much more dot the landscape of America now like shifting shadows looming over those majestic mountains.



That should come as no surprise, though, because the Word of God tells us, “There is a way that appears to be right to man, but in the end it leads to death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

Cancel culture, the LGBTQ+ agenda, critical race theory, transgenders in sports, and so much more dot the landscape of America now like shifting shadows looming over those majestic mountains.

That’s why the guardrails and the reflectors of our society are so important. As those shadows grow longer, we need to be able to see where we’re going and be guided by principles that aren’t changing like the shifting shadows.

For more than 25 years, Palmetto Family has been South Carolina’s cultural guardrail, working to steer public policy in Biblically guided directions — to make our state a place where God is honored, religious freedom flourishes, families thrive, and life is cherished.


But, as every driver in South Carolina will attest, like our roads, there’s plenty of work that needs to be done. Over time, we need to make improvements, reinforce the guardrails, and ensure that we are providing the pathway that the next generation will need to survive.

In the book of Nehemiah, a singular public servant recognized his community’s desperate needs, took those needs to the rulers of his day, and helped make his community better. With God’s favor, and the blessings of that ruler, Nehemiah worked within his community to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

It was not a solo effort, though. It was each person taking responsibility for his or her own “section of the wall.” With a sword to defend in one hand and tools of construction in the other, the people of the city made it happen — in 52 days.

That’s exactly where we are today.

If ever there has been a time when the “Big C” Church needs to re-engage in the work God has called us to do, now is the time to rebuild and reinforce the guardrails of our society.



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We need to ensure that we, as the reflectors on that guardrail, are showing the love and graciousness of God to a world in cultural vertigo — not knowing up from down.

Just as importantly, we need to pass along to the next generation this same passion so they, too, can be prepared when their day of leadership comes. One day, the guardrails will be theirs. Let’s make sure we have prepared the way for them to be reflectors of the Love of Christ to a world that desperately needs Him.



GOD'S DESIGN FOR THE THREE PILLARS OF OUR SOCIETY

By Pastor Bill Monroe

The universe did not start with a 'bang,' but with a word spoken by the infinite, personal God. Following the creation of the universe, God turned His attention to man. The Scripture says, He made Adam from the "dust of the earth" and "in His own image" (Gen. 2:7). Immediately, God gave him a mandate to have dominion (rule) over the planet, its creatures, and the environment (Gen. 1:26-28). God then made the woman, Eve, from Adam's body and married them in a garden wedding (Gen. 2:23-25).

The Pillar of the Family

This is the establishment of the family—the first pillar of society. From the "Dominion Mandate" (God's instruction to them), came certain rights. In the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson names three inalienable rights—"life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." However, he prefaces them by writing,

"among these are" implying there are additional inalienable rights. I believe the first inalienable rights ever granted are found here in relation to the family: a right to marry, to bear children and to work—to subdue the earth and its resources—and to earn a living from it.

But there was trouble in Paradise. Genesis 3 describes the Fall—the entrance of sin into the world and the results that followed. In the very next chapter, there is a crime—a murder. Violence continued and increased until "the earth was filled with violence," and God intervened with judgment in the form of a flood.

The Pillar of Government

The first recorded act of God after the Flood was to establish the state or Government—the second pillar. The purpose of Government was to prevent the violence of the pre-flood

society. In Gen. 9:6, God gave authority to punish crime. This is the beginning of the state. Later, in Romans 13, scripture gives a clear statement that the purpose of government is to preserve and protect people's rights by punishing evil doers, by administering justice and by praising the good. Our Founders made this connection by writing "that to secure these (inalienable) rights, governments are instituted among men."

In our society, judges, juries, courts, and law enforcement have this responsibility. James Madison described the challenge of fallen man governing others: "But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be

necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”

The Pillar of the Church

We discover the third pillar of society with the establishment of the church during the ministry of Christ. The Apostle Paul described the church as the “pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Tim. 3:15).

Note, it is the church that is to “hold up” the truth in a culture. Holding up the truth is both negative and positive. We hold up the truth positively by proclaiming Christ (Who is the Truth), and negatively by confronting the falsehoods of a culture that has become like “the days of Noah,” filled with violence and lies.

It is obvious the Church is under serious attack today. One of the most serious attacks is in the form of the Marxist “Woke” philosophy that would replace the Gospel of Jesus Christ with social justice. The Social Justice Movement in the church which has no power to transform a life or to offer redemption or forgiveness.

We need to remember that our Founders and the Constitution gave the church a special place in society by putting a wall of separation between it and the government to protect it from tyrannical government which they feared would inevitably arise.

The Relationship Between the Family, Government and the Church

It is important to understand that each of these institutions has Divine, but limited, authority. Jesus told Pilate, “You would have no power at all except it were given you.” Therefore, each of the divine institutions have their God-assigned roles and responsibilities. One can think of them as traffic on a busy three-lane interstate highway. As long as everyone stays in his lane, life is good. But when someone gets out of their lane, there can be chaos. We have all seen the reckless driver, crossing lanes, violating the law, and risking the lives of others.

Today, Government is that reckless bully...running all over the road and wrecking society. Yes, there are significant problems in the family and in the churches—but the chaos of our day is primarily caused by Government “getting out of its lane.” We are seeing, in living color, the truth of Proverbs 29:2...

“when the wicked bear rule, the people mourn.” Thank God for the righteous leaders we have here in South Carolina; but they are no longer a majority, and at the federal level, they appear to be a distinct minority.

Over and over, government – which was created to protect – is trampling on the God-given rights of the family and the church.

First, the inalienable right to life—violated in every abortion, but also recently in the thousands of deaths in nursing homes during the early days of COVID. Government policy has destroyed God’s design for marriage by legalizing same-sex marriage. It has destroyed the right of families to work and provide for themselves by mandating lockdowns. It has failed to protect property by allowing rioters and looters to destroy it with their “peaceful protests.” Government has infringed on



the rights of churches by ordering them to close their doors in California, New York, and several other states. The “Equality Act” would destroy the very ‘image of God’ (“He created them male and female” – Matt. 19:4) by completely redefining gender and sexuality.

The Family, Church, and State are God’s seawalls against this ocean of evil. When they function properly, sin is restrained. God put a conscience in every human being to restrain individual sin. The family restrains evil by training children “in the way they should go”,

and Government restrains sin when it punishes evil. Finally, the Church restrains sin when it proclaims the Gospel.

When these institutions are compromised, sin flourishes.

Recently, Congressman Greg Steube of Florida read from Genesis to make the point that God created only two sexes, male and female. He was rudely interrupted by Rep. Jerry Nadler (NY) who said, “Mr. Steube, what any religious tradition ascribes as God’s will is of no concern to this Congress.” After Nadler spoke, the words of Romans 2:5 came to my mind: “...they are storing up wrath for themselves.”

While there are millions of Christians in America, evil dominates our society making this a dangerous and dark time. Unless there is a change of course quickly, America will face the wrath of God.

At Palmetto Family, we are committed to shaping the Palmetto State from a biblical worldview, and in doing so strengthening South Carolina’s families, churches, and government.

“But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself.”

— President James Madison

The Rev. Bill Monroe is the Pastor and Founder for Florence Baptist Temple in Florence, SC. He also served as the President of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International. He and his wife Norma have three adult children and eight grandchildren.





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ALLOWS US TO
SERVE WITH YOU AS
THE GUARDRAILS OF
SOUTH CAROLINA.**



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ADOPTION IS MY STORY...

BUT IT WAS GOD'S IDEA FROM THE START

By Melanie Shull



On March 27, 1963, a chubby, five-and-a-half-month-old, baby girl stretched out her arms to her forever daddy. She wrapped those little pudgy arms around his neck, smiled the biggest, toothless grin, and, as her mother always said, “she never let go.”

Amazingly, I only spent 57 days in Foster Care with South Carolina’s Department of Social Services before I was adopted into my God-designed, forever family.

My story is nothing short of a miracle. Birthed on October 16, 1962, in the upstate under difficult circumstances, my birthmother was given an ultimatum. Eventually she had no choice but to give me up. She tried her best to keep me for three months.

Then, when reality sank in, she bravely handed me over to the system. But that didn’t stop her from praying for God to intervene. She specifically asked the social worker to put down on the paper work her one wish—for me to be placed in a Christian home.



God granted the desire of her heart because her will was aligned with His. My story was already written, and adoption was only the beginning.

In less than two months, my forever mom and dad walked into the DSS waiting room. Shortly after, I was given a new name, a new birth certificate, and a brand-new life. I went from being called Laura to Melanie Ann Cook.

Even my new name proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ. According to behindthename.com, Melanie means black, dark (a picture of our hearts before Christ) and Ann means favor or grace (a redeemed heart after receiving Christ).

Many of our state's precious children placed into the foster care system are stuck in limbo. Unlike my case, they dangle between the system and their forever families for two, three, even four years before they are adopted. This a sad and critical state of affairs.

More than 4,000 children are in foster care in South Carolina, with some 800 awaiting forever families. Sadly, with inefficiencies at DSS, backlogs in the court system, and underpaid and burnt-out case workers, children who need love and stability right now are still waiting.

My vision for the children caught in the cross-hairs of foster care and adoption is for there to be more success stories like mine—short time in foster care and placed with a Biblically-designed family.

A family filled with love so deep and wide, that the child(ren) they bring into their home will never doubt how much they're loved. They will know that they belong and will be shown and taught about the love of Jesus Christ their whole life through.

Like I did with my earthly dad, God is waiting for us to wrap our arms around His neck and never let go.

Adoption was His idea from the start. He wants to spiritually adopt us into His forever family through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Being spiritually adopted means we're given a new name, a new life, sealed by the power of the Holy Spirit, and we get to share in the inheritance of Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Once we belong to Him, nothing can snatch us from His keeping. He is our forever Abba, Father.

Melanie Shull is the Founder and Editor in Chief of Living Real Magazine, the host of the Living Real Podcast, author, and speaker. She and her husband, Rick, are almost empty nesters and live in West Columbia near their alma mater, the University of South Carolina. Visit her website at livingrealmag.com.



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IS CRT IN YOUR HOME TOWN?



Racism is a sin. Working for justice is a biblical mandate. "But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream." Amos 5:24.

Racism is one part of all evils resulting from the fall of man and Christians are called to be peacemakers who stand for what's righteous and oppose what's wrong.



Sen. Tim Scott

Racism is a reality of America. As Sen. Tim Scott said, “America is not a racist country, but there are racists in America.”

But racism is being used as a cover by left-wing secularists to remake America into the image of Marx instead of the image of God.

Critical Race Theory’s slow creep into America’s newly-realized woke culture is accelerating today at a fevered pace.

Corporations are mandating internal diversity training and demanding external hiring quotas from companies doing business with them.

History texts are being rewritten with claims that America was built on “white superiority... since its inception” with “natural rights of man” and “religious freedom” as the basis for chattel slavery.

School children as young as third grade are being made to “deconstruct” their own racial identity in class, only to rank themselves based upon their “privilege and power.”

“We’re reaching critical mass,” says Christian author and pastor Dr. Voddie Baucham, author of the recently published book *Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism’s Looming Catastrophe*. “These are ideas that have been around for a long time.”

Critical Race Theory, built along divisive racial lines, has reared its head not only in corporate board rooms and school systems across the country, but its tentacles — rooted in the social justice movement — are spreading quickly and reaching much closer to home.

What is happening in our culture is nothing short of the slow erosion of American principles that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev predicted in 1959 would bring an end to America. That September, the man who had ushered in the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, told the National Press Club in Washington, DC, “We will bury Capitalism... Socialism will inevitably succeed Capitalism.”

Just two years later, Ronald Reagan reminded Americans of Khrushchev’s veiled threat in a speech, attributing to Khrushchev the famous

quote, “We can’t expect the American people to jump from Capitalism to Communism, but we can assist their elected leaders in giving them small doses of Socialism until they awaken one day to find they have Communism.”

For some, that day cannot come fast enough. As CRT evangelist Ibram X. Kendi, with the Center for Antiracist Research at Boston University, said recently, “In order to truly be antiracist, you also have to truly be anticapitalist.”

Unfortunately, those echoes of Marx’s philosophy are not just filling boardrooms and classrooms across America. They are also invading Christian denominations with heightened fervor. As Dr. Baucham says, “Today, churches, like schools, are not using the words, but they are using the ideology and premises of CRT.”

Fractures and splits among several prominent denominations in recent years clearly show that the landscape of America is paved with a pathway that is leading straight to the off-ramp of the Critical Race Theory abyss.

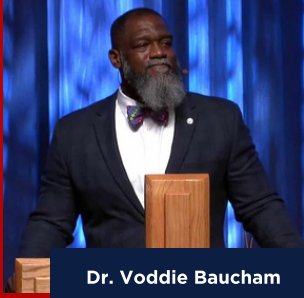
But as Reverend Michael Wilhite, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in Newtonville, Indiana, recently stated in an interview with *New York Magazine*, “It’s just the opposite of the Gospel. Under Critical Race Theory, there is no hope. If you’re white, you’re automatically a racist because of ‘white supremacy.’ But with the gospel there’s hope. I don’t need Critical Race

Theory to diagnose what’s wrong with mankind. I’ve got the Bible, and it does a fine job doing that.”

WHAT IS CRT?

Critical Race Theory places race at the center of the struggle of the entire human experience. An outgrowth of the social justice movement, CRT’s roots stretch back to the ideologies of communism and the philosophies of its prophet Karl Marx.

It was Marx who, in his 1848 *Communist Manifesto*, called for the overthrow of the bourgeoisie (capitalistic business owners) in favor of the proletariat (the worker class).



Dr. Voddie Baucham



Dr. Daniel Janosik



Dr. Tony Evans



Rev. Michael Wilhite



Pastor Tony Foster

There, he said, “The immediate aim of the Communists is the same as that of all the other proletariat parties: formation of the proletariat into a class, the overthrow of the bourgeois supremacy, conquest of political power by the proletariat.”

has adopted a very different approach — to wage war against the enemy as they see it: systemic racism.

“All of us, whether you're white, black, Hispanic or whoever you are. It is a

adjunct professor of apologetics at Columbia International University in Columbia, SC. “Remember, Jesus Christ turned the world upside down for the right reasons. The proponents of CRT say they want ‘equity’ for everyone, but it is the most unequal system possible. They say they want ‘racial reconciliation,’ but they are more racist than the typical racist of the past. They say they want ‘tolerance,’ but they are extremely intolerant of any worldview that is opposed to their views.

We need to understand what they believe. We need to know their arguments against destructive ideas, so we can articulate them with our family and our friends. Then, we need to refute these corrosive ideas.

Today, terms like “bourgeoisie” and “proletariat” have been replaced with phrases like “oppressor vs. oppressed,” “white privilege,” “wokeness,” and “social justice.”

Meanwhile, corporations and organizations are adopting a new corporate wokeness to stave off the ire of CRT enthusiasts. They are establishing new Offices of Inclusivity and hiring new Chief Diversity Officers to ensure adherence to “Equity” over “Equality.”

Do not be confused by the nuance in their word choice. One of the tactics used by CRT-enthusiasts is the redefinition of common words with wholly different meanings.

For decades, the words “equality” and “equity” have seemed interchangeable. Yet today, while “equality” is based on the notion of equal value and worth among all, “equity” is an attempt to bring about change that will result in equal outcomes. On its face, helping others achieve a higher level of success is right and noble, but doing so at the expense of others is to create new structural biases that will inevitably crumble into the morass of the lowest common denominator.

Today’s modern woke culture is attempting to redefine America and

human condition,” says Pastor Tony Foster of Restoration Worship Center in Greenwood, SC. “The reason God sent Jesus Christ was to die and be the propitiation for our sins. Not only does He die, but He sets us free. When He sets us free, we are no longer the victim but we are the victor in Christ.”

Dr. Tony Evans recently told a group of students at Liberty University, “A large part of Critical Race Theory is tied to... systemic racism. It has exploded... with Hannah Jones and the 1619 Project (which) says that America really didn’t start in 1776. It started in Jamestown, VA in 1619 when the first slaves were brought to America and that the Revolutionary War was not merely fought to free the colonies from British rule. It was also fought to preserve slavery.”

“CRT and its proponents are trying to turn the world upside down for the wrong reasons,” says Dr. Daniel Janosik,

“They are atheists intent on destroying our culture, (who) in the end... want to deconstruct America according to the Constitution and Christianity, because they know they cannot install their agenda if the Constitution and Christianity are strong.”

For some, the prospects of CRT paint a dark cloud on the American horizon, predicting a massive, looming cultural storm, but as with any storm, knowing how to respond is key.

From an apologetics standpoint, Dr. Janosik says, “We need to understand what they believe. We need to know their arguments against destructive ideas, so we can articulate them with our family and our friends. Then, we need to refute these corrosive ideas.”

In its stead, Dr. Evans has a counter argument to CRT. “Kingdom Race Theology says that the cross of Jesus Christ is designed to create something new, in spite of what happened with

See CRT on page 29

