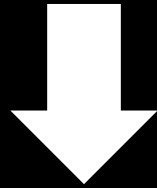


Culture



“Cultivate”

Cultivate

Do things
Make things
Create things



Refine &
Sustain
those things



Survive
Flourish

Cultivate

Do things
Make things
Create things



Refine &
Sustain
those things



Survive
Flourish

Values



Imago Dei

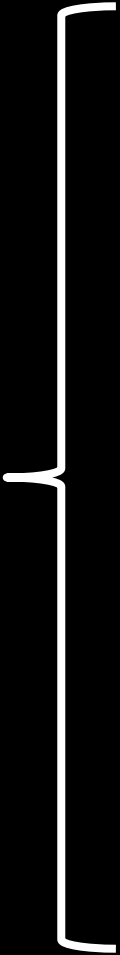
Inputs

Values → Culture

Human Depravity



Gestures
toward aspects
of culture



- Condemn
- Critique
- Cooperate
- Consume
- Celebrate
- Copy
- Create

Cultural
Thing

Posture



Cultural
Thing

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



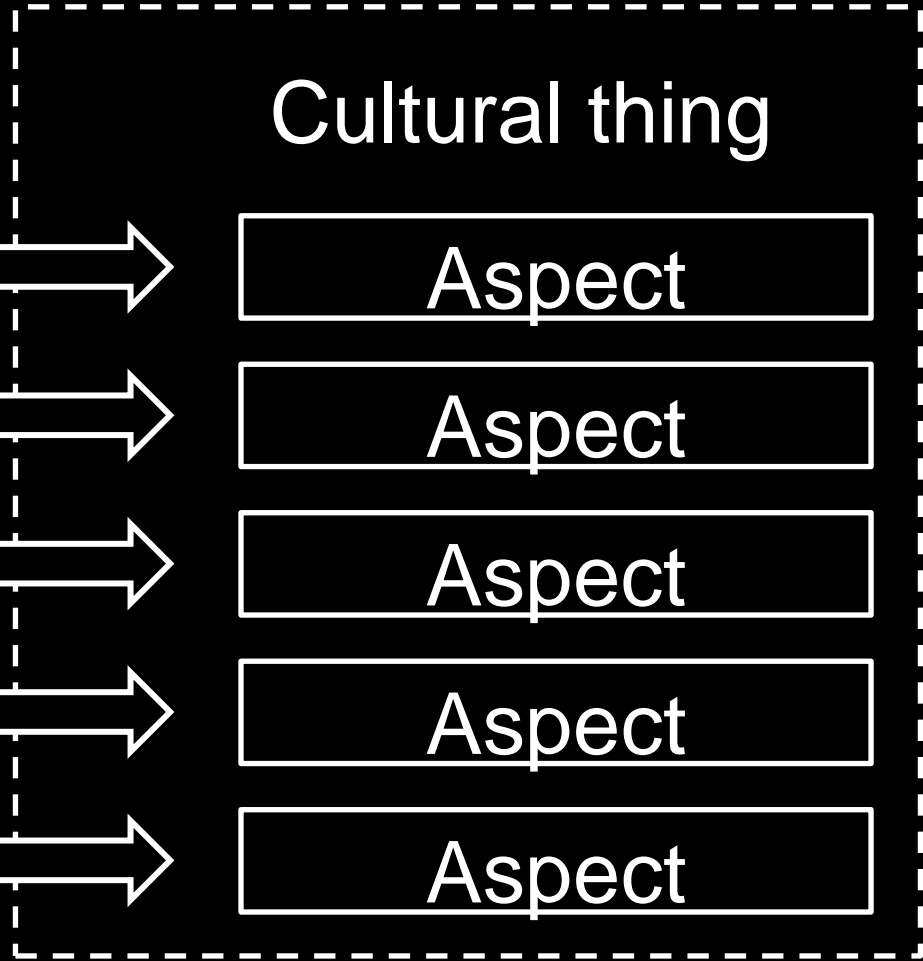
Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Cultural thing



What is
the mind
of Christ
about ...



Cultural thing

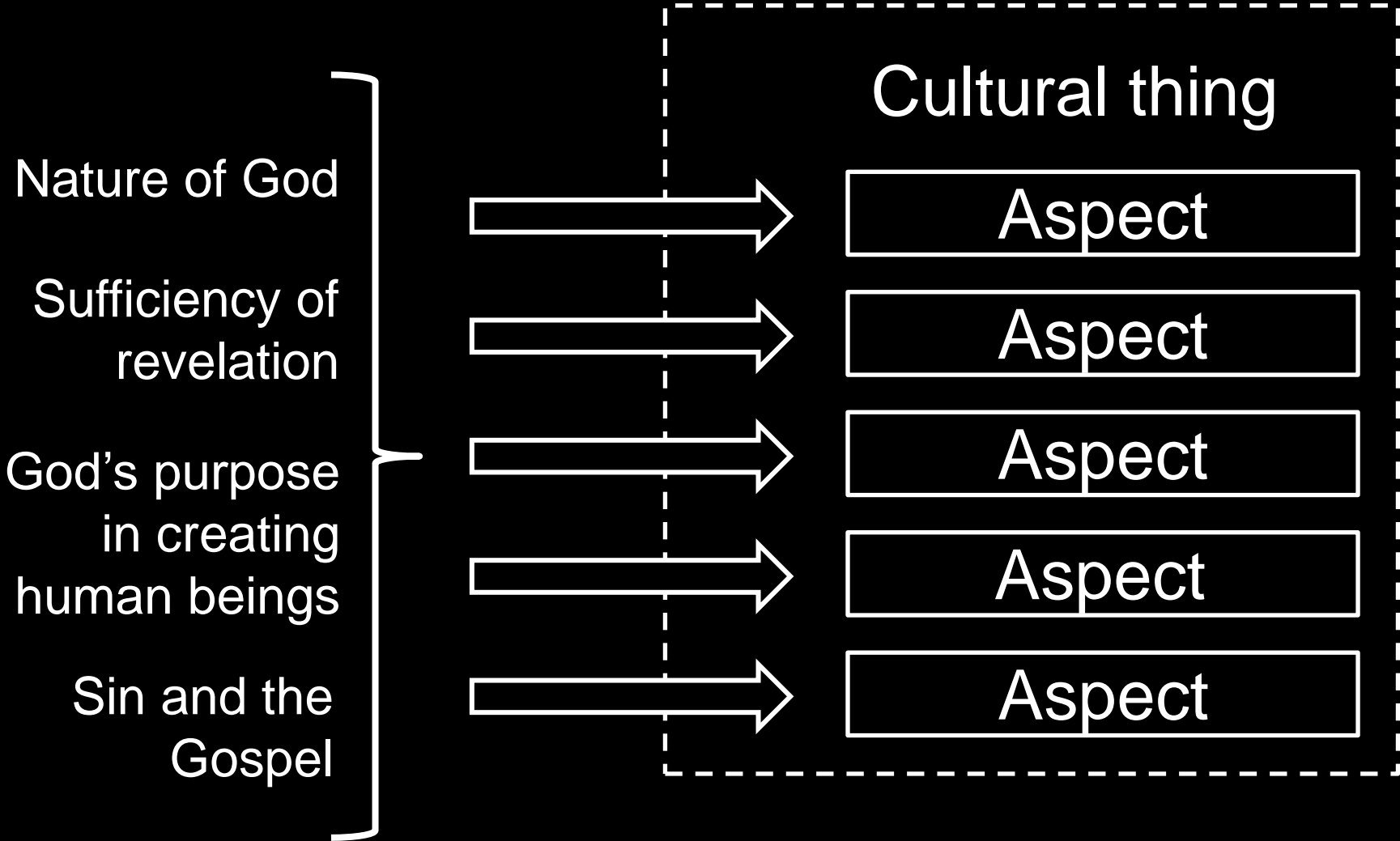
Aspect

Aspect

Aspect

Aspect

Aspect



Test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21–22

Critical Race Theory

Intersectionality

“1619 Project”

Critical Race Theory

“Anti-racism”

Black Lives Matter

“An outgrowth of the European Marxist school of critical theory, critical race theory is an academic movement which seeks to link racism, race, and power. Unlike the Civil Rights movement, which sought to work within the structures of American democracy, critical race theorists challenge the very foundations of the liberal order, such as rationalism, constitutional law, and legal reasoning. Critical race theorists argue that American social life, political structures, and economic systems are founded upon race, which (in their view) is a social construct.”

“Systemic racism, in the eyes of critical race theorists, stems from the dominance of race in American life. Critical race theorists and anti-racist advocates argue that, because race is a predominant part of American life, racism itself has become internalized into the American conscience. It is because of this, they argue, that there have been significantly different legal and economic outcomes between different racial groups.”

“Advocates of anti-racism and critical race theory use this focus on race to emphasize the importance of identity politics. Movements, such as the wave of “anti-racist” actions at universities and Black Lives Matter, are some ways in which identity politics and critical race theory have captured the nation’s attention. For the political identitarians, simply not being racist is not sufficient. As Boston University professor Ibram X. Kendi writes in his book *How to Be an Antiracist*, “[Racism] is descriptive, and the only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it—and then dismantle it,” (p. 9).”

“Self-avowed anti-racists are not only expected to push for equity (i.e. the equality of outcome) in the broader society, but are also asked to find racism in daily life. Robin DiAngelo, author of *White Fragility*, writes, “The question is not ‘did racism take place?’ but rather, ‘how did racism manifest in this situation?’” Anti-racists must find these “implicit biases” in all aspects of life, ranging from discussions in the classroom to interactions between colleagues. All of these are fair game.”

Critical Race Theory

Posture



Critical
Race
Theory

Critical Race Theory

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Gesture



Aspect

Critical Race Theory

Nature of God



Aspect

Sufficiency of
revelation



Aspect

God's purpose
in creating
human beings



Aspect

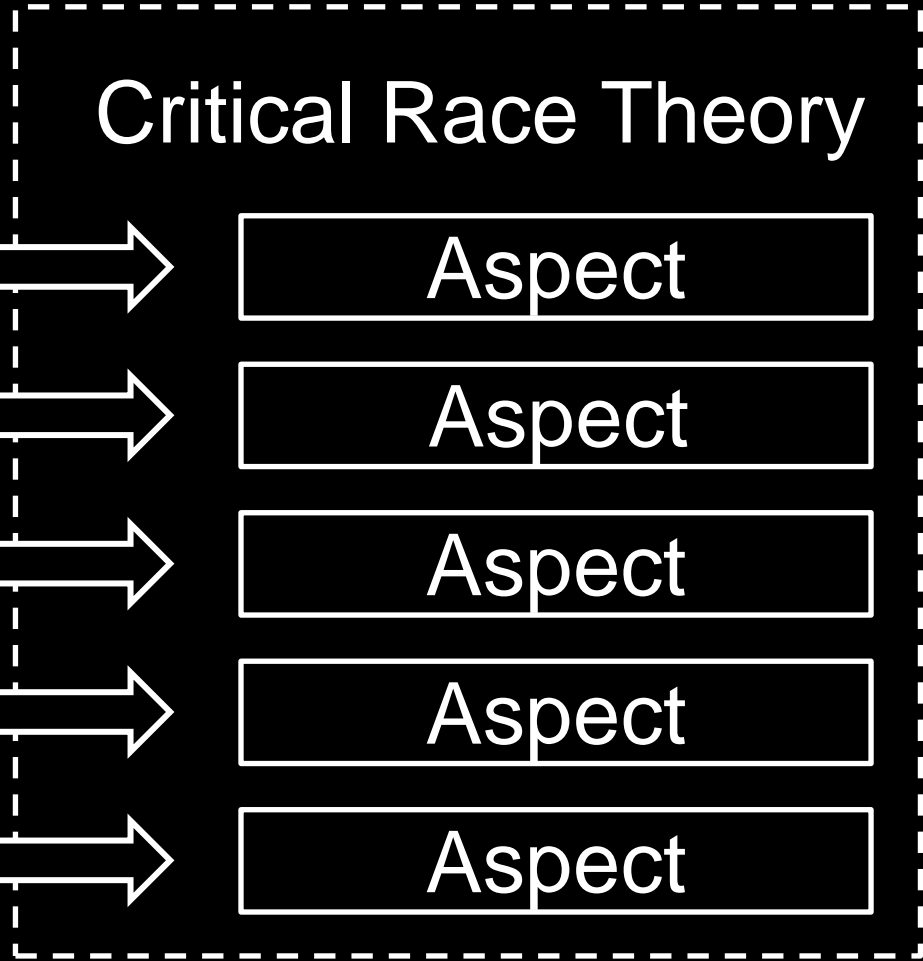


Aspect

Sin and the
Gospel



Aspect



Point(s) of Agreement?

Point(s) of Agreement?

- Racism has been and continues to be a problem in the US
- Racial equality is a worthy aspiration

“The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ”

John 4:9

“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, ‘You sit here in a good place,’ while you say to the poor man, ‘You stand over there,’ or, ‘Sit down at my feet,’ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?”

James 2:1-5

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.”

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.”

Isaiah 1:16-17

“I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.”

Malachi 3:5

Mark 7

“Here there is not Greek and Jew,
circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian,
Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and
in all.”

Colossians 3:11

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”

Revelation 5:9-10

Point(s) of Agreement?

- Racism has been and continues to be a problem in the US
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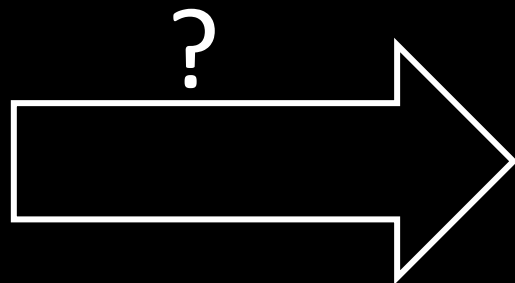
Critiques of CRT

- Merely pointing out (“describing”) brokenness in the world is not enough to address it.
- The problem of racism in society is not fundamentally its broken systems and institutions. The problem is human depravity.
- CRT is promoted as a “lens” through which life, society, and flourishing are assessed.
- CRT promises a pathway to hope apart from the gospel.

Liberation Theology

- J. Moltmann, Gustavo Gutierrez, James Cone, Leonardo Boff, Jeremiah Wright
- Humanity's fundamental problem is oppression and structures of oppression.
- The “gospel” is the liberation of the oppressed

Posture



CRT

CRT is an aggressive, well-intentioned effort to address a historic manifestation of brokenness in the world. However, it doesn't go far enough. It fails to name and identify the source of human brokenness as stemming from humanity's fall in the garden, and it falls short of locating the solution to humanity's brokenness in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For further discussion

- How, practically-speaking, does a gospel-focused orientation of the church offer a robust hope to the oppressed?
- How can the church offer a “taste of heaven” within our local community, especially as our community grapples with manifestations of humanity’s brokenness?