

WOKE:

Does the Bible support the 'WOKE' agenda?

I think right at the outset of this article I need to clearly define what the term 'WOKE' means in this day and age and so to enable me to do that I would refer readers of this article to the article on this link –

<https://inews.co.uk/news/uk/woke-what-mean-meaning-origins-term-definition-culture-387962>

In that article we read this helpful paragraph –

Woke was officially added into the Oxford English Dictionary as an adjective in June 2017. The dictionary defines it as **“originally: well-informed, up-to-date. Now chiefly: alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice”**. The Urban Dictionary, which published its original definition two years prior to the official dictionary, defines it as **“being woke means being aware... knowing what’s going on in the community (related to racism and social injustice)”**. In other words, it means to be awake to sensitive social issues, such as racism.

So, keeping that in mind, what has prompted me to write on this topic? Well, just recently I received an email asking me to respond to an item that had appeared on the web site of 'Premier Christianity' that describes itself as 'The UK's leading Christian magazine'.

I plan now to include the wording of that email and my subsequent response to it (with an occasional 'tweak' here and there)

Dear Cecil

The article below claims the bible was woke. How would we respond to this?
Please click and read article below.

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/opinion/5-times-the-bible-was-woke/5383.article>

Dear xxxxx,

Not a field that I have delved deeply into but I have 'given it a go' so herewith are the 5 'woke' suggestions made by the author and I have responded to each and then added a conclusion.

1. The Bible's so woke that there are hardly any white people in it!

Those who critique racial justice narratives are suspicious of calls for representation and challenges to diversify every sector of society. There's often a subtle view that white people run the world because they are, simply, better at running things. **Black and brown people are surely guaranteed success if they just work hard and demonstrate they deserve it.** The over-representation of white people in power globally (including in the Church) suggests there is some inherent worth in whiteness. But if that were so, wouldn't we see more white people in the Bible? None of the biblical heroes are white: not Abraham, not David, not Moses, not Esther, not Deborah. Not, y'know, Jesus.

In Acts 17:19 we read **“And they took him (Paul) and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, may we know what this new doctrine (resurrection), whereof thou speakest, is... (verse 26) And (God) hath made of one blood (all descended from Adam) all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth”**. Paul was addressing the legal brains of the Greeks at Athens and to their face he was basically rejecting their 'WOKISM' of that day where they divided the world into Greeks and Barbarians (non-Greeks).

It seems to me that the author of this article is determined to try and make a case for supposed 'white privilege' – look at these statements **‘There's often a subtle view that white people run the world because they are, simply, better at running things.’** – Where's the evidence or basis for this claim? **‘The over-representation of white people in power globally (including in the Church) suggests there is some inherent worth in whiteness’** – Here is a photo of the 2013 Commonwealth of Nations Conference –



Also in the political realm, has the author overlooked the leading roles played by Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell during the George W Bush presidency in America, the 8-year long Presidency of Barack Obama and the current vice-president, Kamala Harris?

Then, here is a photo from the Lambeth Conference during the time George Carey was Archbishop of Canterbury –



Also, has she forgotten about the 'church' influence of the likes of former Archbishop of York, John Sentamu and Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner.?

My reading of these pictures and my comments is that as regards both political power and church power there has been/is good representation from amongst non-white people.

As for the people the author mentioned as being non-white, I confess freely that I have never given any thought whatsoever as to what colour of skin they possessed for the simple reason that it would not affect the biblical truths to be gleaned when reading about them. It was their character, not their colour, that was important.

2. Micah 6:8

This verse is a favourite of woke Christians (I mean, I have its words written on a mug). It calls on the people of God to act justly, walk humbly and love mercy in response to the injustice in 8th century Judah that the prophet Micah was witnessing around him. The call to 'act justly' sounds pretty woke to me

The author states **'This verse is a favourite of woke Christians'** – well, what about the non-woke Christians who also like this verse because it simply describes what the walk of a faithful believer should exhibit. **Matthew Henry**, in his comments on this verse said **'We must, in the whole course of our conversation, conform ourselves to the will of God, keep up our communion with God, and study to approve ourselves to him in our integrity; and this we must do humbly (submitting our understandings to the truths of God and our will to his precepts and providences); we must humble ourselves to walk with God (so the margin reads it); every thought within us must be brought down, to be brought into obedience to God, if we would walk comfortably with him. This is that which God requires'**. **This verse is not the exclusive 'property' of so-called 'woke Christians'**.

3. Hospitality to immigrants

Critics of the so-called woke agenda aren't big fans of immigration. But the Bible seems to call us time and time again to show hospitality to immigrants. Zechariah 7:9 instructs us to not neglect sojourners, or ignore the "resident alien" (Jeremiah 22:3). The Bible's so woke that a contemporary illustration could legitimately include a banner that said: "Welcome refugees".

Once again, a far-reaching generalisation is stated – **'Critics of the so-called woke agenda aren't big fans of immigration'**. Christians like myself and others I know do not have any problem with controlled, LEGAL immigration but what is being 'championed' by so-called woke Christians is the open-door policy that welcomes all and sundry without any checks being made on who the people are, what is the state of their health and what are their real motives for illegally entering countries.

If they took the time to do some research, they would realise that a particular philosophical agenda is being followed here and is generally dubbed as **'cultural Marxism'** – a philosophy that wants to destroy all vestiges of biblical Christianity. The verses cited once more describe the attitude that believers should adopt towards LEGAL 'immigrants' and 'aliens' but care should also be taken as many of these people are 'pagans' in their beliefs and God's people were warned about the dangers of inter-mixing too closely with such - see Joshua 23: 6-8.

4. Redistribution of wealth

In Acts 2:45, we see the early Church operating under some pretty socialist principles: "They were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all as any had need," we read. Egalitarian society is a pretty fundamental woke ideal.

This verse must be understood in context – it is not advocating some overall socialist/marxist (woke) general philosophy but describes how the fledgling church, which would have been viewed with great suspicion and even as a threat by the majority Jewish population, looked out for each other and were ready to help fellow believers as and when necessary. The bible does not condemn the honourable accumulation of wealth and indeed challenges and even condemns those who are ‘lazy’ and expect others to finance them – see Proverbs 6:6-9; 13:4; 20:4.

5. The book of Revelation

John’s vision of “a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” is a beautiful picture of the equality of all God’s people, no matter where they come from. This is not a colour-blind passive acceptance of difference but is awake to the beauty of difference and recognises the importance of representation. Surely that’s something we can all believe in, and work towards.

Once more the author is trying to suggest that non-woke Christians are perhaps unaware of **‘the equality of all God’s people, no matter where they come from’**. Once again, she is trying to claim ‘rights’ to this understanding for so-called ‘woke Christians’ – she clearly is ignorant of the fact that this view has been held by non-woke Christians for centuries before the term ‘woke’ ever appeared on the scene in recent times.

CONCLUSION:

As an example of ‘eisegesis-desperation’ to try and make a case then this article must come close to ‘taking the biscuit’. It seems that the author is more hung-up with skin colour than with the wonderful redeeming power of the sacrificial red blood shed by the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary for those who now sing “thou wast slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

In addition, I note that in the ‘bio’ attached to the article, it says this about the author of the article, **Chine McDonald**, that ‘She heads up community fundraising and public engagement at Christian Aid’ - **‘Christian Aid’** is an organisation that I recently had occasion to write about as can be seen on this link –

<https://www.takeheed.info/pdf/2021/June/christian-aid-is-it-a-christian-organisation.pdf>

Finally, the discussion on this video and which features PHIL JOHNSON of Grace to You might also prove helpful –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4dy96jPZQ0>

POST SCRIPT

I came across this article today that seems to show the 'spiritual poverty' of so-called 'church leaders' like the Archbishop of Canterbury, JUSTIN WELBY, and others mentioned in the article and felt I should include it as a 'PS' to my article, along with a saying attributed to A W Tozer that also came to my attention today

<https://www.aol.co.uk/archbishop-reveals-personal-sacrifices-combat-093347749.html>

**WORSHIP IS NO LONGER
WORSHIP WHEN IT
REFLECTS THE CULTURE
AROUND US MORE THAN
THE CHRIST WITHIN US.**

A.W. TOZER
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ACOGMINISTRIES



