

Sadly, I must vote against Matthew Hall's promotion today. In one of Matthew Hall's YouTube videos he discusses his academic training at Grove City College and Southern Seminary. At those institutions he says that he was not confronted with the issues of race, justice, and reconciliation (4:40 CREH), but at UK, where he did his PhD, he was confronted with these issues "without any gospel, without any Christian categories," therefore, "He had to connect the dots," and "As a minister he had to put that all together," and "If these things are central to the heart of Jesus, what would that look like for me in the different responsibilities that I have" (5:00 Ibid). These things that he considered "central to the heart of Jesus" are the race, justice, and reconciliation that he learned at UK. He is incorporating what he learned at UK with what he learned at Grove City and Southern.

What he learned about race, justice, and reconciliation at UK is orthodoxy on virtually every secular campus: Critical Race Theory (CRT). This is confirmed by listening to Matthew Hall's videos on YouTube and on Southern Seminary's website. He speaks the vocabulary of CRT: systemic or structural racism, privilege or white privilege, racialized, racial justice, and his favorite, whiteness. He accepts and applies the concepts and worldview of CRT. He laments, for example, the cultural whiteness at our churches, especially in music (WTW 33:20). He considers Southern Seminary a white institution, "This is a very white seminary. I do not mean by that just the student enrollment. The culture of SBTS is remarkably white, like sooo white" (WTW 33:45). In lockstep with CRT, he defines racism not just personally, but systemically as "a whole system built upon the allocation of privilege, power, and opportunity inequitably based on race" (19:11 CREH). This is how he views present day America and to a great extent, Evangelicalism. "If you think of Evangelicalism post WW2, you are talking about structures of power, institutions, networks – including the National Association of Evangelicals, Billy Graham and everything surrounding his ministry – much of it is tied to whiteness" (14:30 Ibid). Because of the way Evangelicalism at that time responded and interacted with the Black Freedom Movement and the Civil Rights movement, it is a critical element of "why Evangelicalism is a racialized term" (14:50 Ibid). And finally, he states, "The power of the ideology of whiteness has often gone undetected in evangelicalism (42:00 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxKyvETyV2o>)." For these and other comments on the video, the liberal moderator complimented Hall stating that Hall was "a liberal and social justice warrior" (42:30 Ibid). His co-panelist, a United Church of Christ pastor [successor to Jeremiah Wright], embraced him as well calling him "a Jesus man" for his views (42:50 Ibid), with full acceptance and full approval. In panel discussions that he participated on campus, other CRT concepts were accepted and promoted, such as "safe spaces," "economic justice," "reparations," and "micro-aggressions." At one point, a panelist, now a faculty member, complimented Matt for "being so well-versed in CRT and history. He is using terms such as whiteness. Some people hear that, and it creates a little angst" (37:20 WTW). Indeed, it does. That current faculty member went on to give a glowing endorsement of Cheryl Harris' CRT classic, "Whiteness as Property" without qualifications or warnings to the audience (37:50 Ibid). Matt never questioned, limited, or qualified any statements or discussions of the panelists on campus.

This is the secular philosophy that Matt combines with the gospel. There is a reason that the Southern Seminary of just a few years ago and Grove City College did not teach him these

things: they (and specifically CRT) eradicate the gospel. Let us not think that Matt is teaching only the good version CRT or only the helpful aspects of CRT. CRT is rotten to the core. CRT has not and never will help race relations or bring about reconciliation however defined. In fact, it is poisoning race relations, fueling genuine racism against whites and the rabid antisemitism now firmly entrenched in many American institutions, especially in the universities and in the Democratic Party. We must, therefore, completely reject CRT.

Here's the bottom line: CRT or any other secular philosophy cannot coexist with the gospel. We can love the one, but not the other. CRT corrupts and destroys the gospel.

These votes for promotion are critical because they reveal where we are and where we are going theologically. Of my 21 years on faculty, this vote is the most crucial. God help us.

Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel

WE DENY that Christian belief, character, or conduct can be dictated by any other authority, and we deny that the postmodern ideologies derived from intersectionality, radical feminism, and critical race theory are consistent with biblical teaching. We further deny that competency to teach on any biblical issue comes from any qualification for spiritual people other than clear understanding and simple communication of what is revealed in Scripture.

CRT Critical Race Theory

CREH Confronting Racist Evangelical History (YouTube):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx-7LrvJmsk>

WTW One Student Group: What's the Word (Seminary Website)

<http://cdn.sbts.edu/media/video/student-life/20160217-ONE-whats-the-word-forum.mp4>

This one is very hard to download.

Other sources

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imN8SvGTWz4>

Removing the stain of racism (You Tube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imN8SvGTWz4>