## Defining the Vocabulary of the Wokeness Worldview

- 1. <u>Critical Race Theory</u> CRT is the foundational framework of the wokeness worldview. This theory contends that the rule of law is inherently racist, and that race is a social construct that exists to maintain the interests of the elites (whites). CRT is a Marxist social philosophy which argues that social problems are influenced and created by societal structures and cultural assumptions. CRT posits that the entire infrastructure of law and reason is an expression of white supremacy, therefore, all whites are racist whether they realize it or not. This reality must be corrected by reeducating whites to understand that they are all inherently racist and by doing away with the current structures of law, judicial process, and patriarchy, all of which are tools of oppression used by white people to control and discriminate against all people of color.
- 2. <u>Intersectionality</u> This is a litmus test for identifying how the different aspects of a person's social and political identities combine to produce discrimination or privilege based upon the accumulation of identities such as gender, sex, race, class, sexuality, religion, etc. The more minority groups to which you belong, the greater your value/worth to the community of oppressed minorities.
- 3. Social Justice This concept proposes that in order to correct the economic and social disparities of oppressed groups, as well as differences in opportunities between the oppressed and the oppressors, as defined by those who hold to the wokeness worldview, wealth and privilege should be taken from those who have it and redistributed to those who do not. This concept is classic Marxism that opposes the freedom of individuals who labor to produce and benefit from their own labor. Social justice also holds that the free market system of capitalism is a tool to benefit those who produce while withholding wealth from those who do not work.
- 4. <u>Internalized Oppression</u> In social justice, internalized oppression is a concept in which an oppressed group uses the methods of the oppressing group against itself. It occurs when one group perceives an inequality of value relative to another group, and desires to be like the more highly valued group. More specifically, those in a minority group that self-defines as oppressed can express that it is oppressed despite there being absolutely no evidence that any oppression exists. However, no one is allowed to use reason and common sense to prove that the individual or group is not oppressed because this is how they feel internally. In addition, reason and common sense are considered racist tools of the oppressors and, therefore, cannot be trusted to determine truth. Feelings and emotions are the determining factors.
- 5. Heteronormativity Heteronormativity is the belief that heterosexuality is the default, preferred, or normal mode of sexual orientation. It assumes that there are only two distinct and opposite genders, and that sexual and marital relations are most fitting between people of opposite sex. A heteronormative view therefore involves alignment of biological sex, sexuality, gender identity and gender roles. In the wokeness worldview, heteronormativity is often linked to heterosexism and homophobia. The effects of societal heteronormativity on homosexual, bisexual, and transsexual individuals is seen as heterosexual or straight privilege.
- 6. <u>Epistemic Injustice</u> This term sees injustice, especially racial injustice, as systemic to structures and governing authorities.
- 7. Heteropatriarchy In feminist theory, heteropatriarchy (etymologically from heterosexual and patriarchy) is a socio-political system where males and heterosexuals have authority over females and over other sexual orientations and gender identities. It is a term that emphasizes discrimination of women and LGBTQ people by heterosexual men.

- 8. Compulsory Heterosexuality This is the idea that heterosexuality is assumed and enforced by a patriarchal and heteronormative society. In this theory, heterosexuality is seen as able to be adopted by people regardless of their personal sexual orientation, while heterosexuality is socially promoted as the natural state of both sexes, and deviation is seen as unfavorable. Thus, heterosexuality is a form of oppression against the LBGTQ community.
- 9. Gender Performativity This feminist term argues that being born male or female does not determine behavior. Instead, people learn to behave in particular ways to fit into society. The idea of gender is an act or performance rather than the special creation of God.
- 10. <u>Lived Experience</u> This perspective states that whatever a person feels inwardly, because of their lived experiences, is what is true, particularly as it pertains to racism and whiteness. Moreover, no one is allowed to question the validity of someone's perception of racial discrimination for that is judgment even if all the evidence proves them to be wrong.
- 11. White Privilege This view posits that there is societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people in some societies, particularly if they are otherwise under the same social, political, or economic circumstances. Not factored into this definition are the benefits that come to all people through a strong work ethic, obeying the law, and keeping marriages and families intact.
- 12. White Fragility Because white people are inherently racist and morally weak, they display discomfort and defensiveness when confronted by information about racial inequality and injustice.
- 13. <u>Virtue Signaling</u> The practice of publicly expressing opinions or sentiments, typically on social media platforms, intended to demonstrate the moral correctness of one's position on an issue, particularly that one possesses an acceptable amount of wokeness.