



Critical Social Justice Hub

Equality vs Equity



Opportunity

The Plan of Salvation offers Grace from God and opportunity in all stages of existence. The opportunity is for all those who choose Truth and His way. Equity seeks to remove Telos, Truth, and growth by widening “the way” and “including” all regardless of our choices.

“The equality of God is not the equal outcomes for all, but equal opportunity for all.”

– President Dallin H. Oaks

What is Equity?

Practically, equity is forced outcome. It first looks at the disparity in results and assumes a victim/oppressor dynamic for those results. In other words, if there is a disparity, especially against a “marginalized” group, it is due to oppression and oppressive systems. Of course, this is full of problems. The primary problem is that equity does not consider agency. Nor does it consider other reasonable elements that could produce disparity in results such as skill, capacity, ideas, and hard work.

“Justice” is another word inserted for equity. Climate Equity is Climate Justice. Social Equity is Social Justice. Equity seeks to “flatten the hierarchy” of every “privilege” and every disparity regardless of reason. It is the primary rebellion of The War In Heaven.



Agency

Agency, along with the Atoning Sacrifice of Jesus Christ, is the greatest gift from our Heavenly Father. Even at the risk of failure, He does not intervene with our agency.

This means that we are all open to failure and poor choices. These choices create a disparity of results. Granted, “systems” can be established to create their own results as well, but “equity” disregards the individual choice and places the blame away from the individual seemingly at all costs, and puts it on “others” or “systems.”

Of course the appeal to “equity” is that we remove both personal responsibility and the need to align with Truth and true principles. If “the way” is widened for all, then each individual’s truth is acceptable and the requirements necessary for personal and spiritual growth are thrown aside limiting one’s progression here on earth and in the eternities.

Like the Plan of Salvation with numerous Kingdoms as destinations and states of being, variable outcomes are inevitable with agency. Without variable outcomes, opportunity and truth fall apart.

Forced Outcome

By focusing on results first (equity), Critical Social Justice removes the precious, poignant elements of agency, growth, and relationships. It ignores faith, hope, and charity. It ignores repentance, creativity, and all of the ingredients involved in an individual’s, family’s, society’s journey.

A recent example from a listener- One evening a woman was washing the dishes. She received a call from Sister from her ward who was a therapist. When the Sister found out that the woman was doing the dishes and that her husband was on the couch watching sports, the sister told the woman she was in an abusive relationship and needed to leave her husband. Focusing on the results in Critical Social Justice always assumes oppression. What the Sister did not know was the over their twenty-year marriage, the husband, despite a glaring physical disability, went to work everyday so that his wife could stay home with and raise the kids. Without a focus on each of the individuals, a results-focused assumption was ready to eliminate a precious

relationship built on love and sacrifice.

Numerous examples of results only examination are found in every facet of our society today. Equity attempts to **“flatten the hierarchy”** and work not from opening up opportunity, but forcing an outcome that removes order from natural law and eternal law.

Charity

One principle that cannot be overlooked with Equity is Charity. While opportunity is crucial, it is not enough. We are social beings and our well-being and salvation depend on our love for one another. When individuals are left only to themselves, we have failed. It is our job to not only have personal responsibility, but to love others and help them reach greater outcomes. Without charity, Equity gains momentum to rear its ugly head.

Assimilation, Principles, & Commandments

One principle of Ibram Kendi’s antiracism is “assimilation.” Assimilation for Kendi is racist. That is, when one assimilates to western culture with tenets such as self-reliance, constitutional law, and a traditional family, one is being racist. But truth is truth and true principles are true. Whether in this life or in the eternities, we should strive to assimilate to all that is good (13th Article of Faith).

Equity seeks to remove paths of true principles and requirements such as commandments and in their stead, offers an equality of outcome for all regardless of any assimilation or adherence to these principles. This is why we see, even in the Restored Church today, those who will place Equity over commandments such as the Law of Chastity or a break from the Proclamation on the Family.

The War In Heaven (Equity vs Salvation)

It seems obvious that we have fought this war before. A full third of the Children of God fell subject to “equity.”

We are not asked to make things fair on the backend with results. We are asked to help make things fair on the front end with opportunity and along the way with charity. The War In Heaven was about equity and agency. Lucifer presented a plan opposite of the Father’s which would not require a Savior. It would remove failure by removing agency and in the process remove spiritual growth- he “sought to destroy the agency of man.” The Plan of Equity is the Plan of Evil because it removes agency and individual progression and requires tyranny to accomplish a flattened hierarchy - ***“that one should shall not be lost . . . wherefore give me thine honour.”***