

Racial Reconciliation Resources

The Spring

Resources for Understanding Issues of Race, Racism and God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation

Yet again, our country is in turmoil over the unjust deaths of African-Americans, and for this we grieve, lament and seek to take action. We want to respond as followers of Jesus and as his church, joining in the way of Jesus as agents of reconciliation, love, justice, mercy, hope and practical good deeds.

Our hope is to respond thoughtfully, biblically and in a manner that takes this conversation deep into our journey of discipleship. We don’t want to only respond in crisis, we want to always learn, grow and live out God’s call for his people to be justice-bringers who celebrate that all humans bear his image and are recipients of his love.

Growing in awareness and compassion for issues of social justice and anti-racism is intimately related to the mission of God’s Kingdom (Genesis 1:26-27; Exodus 22:21; Leviticus 19:33-34; Micah 6:8; Acts 17:26; Romans 10:12-13; Galatians 3:27; Ephesians 2:11-14; 1 John 2:11; 4:19-21; Revelation 7:9).

We will continue to add to these resources and are seeking to have a response that moves us beyond learning to action. Pray for our leadership as we lean in.

Note: These resources are not perfect but they are a starting point for dialogue and contemplation. We recognize that much of what we are currently posting is focused on the African-American conversation as well as speaking explicitly to white America. Because this is the emphasis of the current discussion in our country, we will tilt this way right now, but we are committed to looking at racism from every experience ([see some options below](#)).

| You’re thinking | Start Here: |
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| I don’t even know where to begin. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey (Shin)2. White Awake: An Honest Look at What It Means to Be White (Hill)3. Prophetic Lament (Rah) |
| I have concerns/questions about the relevance of social justice to the Christian Gospel. | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Letter From a Birmingham Jail (King)2. Very Good Gospel (Harper)3. Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America (Smith and Emerson)4. Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart (Christina Cleveland) |

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| <p>I care about social justice, but don't know how to integrate that value with my faith.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Heart of Racial Justice: How Soul Change Leads to Social Change McNeil and Richardson 2. Be the Bridge 101 3. The Cross and the Lynching Tree (Cone) 4. Faith-Rooted Organizing: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World (Heltzel and Salvatierra) |
| <p>I want to learn about how people who are different from me experience God and the world.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Let Justice Roll Down (Perkins) 2. Between the World and Me (Coates) 3. Prophetic Lament (Rah) 4. I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness (Brown) 5. Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America (Dyson) |
| <p>I am ready to take a faithful risk to engage social/racial injustice.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raise Your Voice: Why We Stay Silent and How to Speak Up (Khang) 2. Roadmap to Reconciliation (McNeil) 3. Healing Racial Trauma: The Road to Resilience (Rowe) |
| <p>Are there resources to watch and not just read?</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality (HBO) - follows his struggle to create greater fairness in the system and shows how racial injustice emerged, evolved and continues to threaten the country, challenging viewers to confront it. 2. 13th – This documentary (Netflix) explore the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons are disproportionately filled with African-Americans 3. Just Mercy – This film is based on the true story of Bryan Stevenson. You can watch it free at justmercyfilm.com 4. Do the Right Thing 5. Hidden Figures 6. I am not your Negro 7. Color of Compromise |
| <p>Podcasts</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1619 2. Truth's Table |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pass The Mike 4. The Stoop 5. Pastor Thabiti Anyabwile, Leading the March https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-new-activist/id1144659009?i=100048010311 |
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| <p>Asian-American</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Model Minority Myth and the Wedge Between Black and White America 2. More Than Serving Tea: Asian American Women on Expectations, Relationships, Leadership and Faith (multiple authors) 3. Is Yellow Black or White? (Okhiro) PDF: https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbnxhc2lhb mFtZXJpY2FuaGlzdG9yeTYyfGd4OjUxNTc2O DU5MzczZjhjYzk Video with the author: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qdQPvpWYL58 |
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| <p>Latina/Latino</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brown Church: Five Centuries of Latina/o Social Justice, Theology, and Identity (Romero) 2. Being Latino in Christ (Crespo) |
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