

SUGGESTED RESOURCES ON RACISM & RELIGION

BOOKS:

- **The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism**

By: Jemar Tisby, ZONDERVAN / 2020 / PAPERBACK

In *The Color of Compromise*, Jemar Tisby takes readers back to the roots of sustained racism and injustice in the American church. Filled with powerful stories and examples of American Christianity's racial past, Tisby's historical narrative highlights the obvious ways people of faith have actively worked against racial justice, as well as the complicit silence of racial moderates. Identifying the cultural and institutional tables that must be flipped to bring about progress, Tisby provides an in-depth diagnosis for a racially divided American church and suggests ways to foster a more equitable and inclusive environment among God's people.

- **Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation**

By: Latasha Morrison, WATERBROOK / 2019 / PAPERBACK

The author, a leading advocate for racial reconciliation, offers a clear call for Christians to move toward relationship and deeper understanding in the midst of a divisive culture. With racial tensions as high within the church as outside the church, it is time for Christians to become the leaders in the conversation on racial reconciliation. This book helps readers deepen their understanding of historical factors and present realities, equipping them to participate in the ongoing dialogue and to serve as catalysts for righteousness, justice, healing, transformation, and reconciliation. Now, a New York Times bestseller, *Be The Bridge*, is available as a Study Guide, with a Leader Guide, to facilitate small group discussions, and *Be the Bridge* is also available for discussion with video.

- **Brave Church: Tackling Tough Topics Together**

By: Elizabeth Hagan, Upper Room Book Publisher/2021

In today's deeply divided world where discussions can quickly become heated and uncivil, churches need to learn the skills for having conversations about sensitive issues. Our society needs brave churches where people can talk about the real struggles they are experiencing. People need their church to be a safe place to talk openly about their daily challenges and to know that others will listen and respond with loving hearts and open minds.

Brave Church will help congregations begin to talk about controversial topics with sensitivity to those who see the world and have experienced life differently from others. It will guide readers to think through how the church relates to various controversial issues, including racism. Each chapter begins with a scriptural meditation and prayer. Throughout the 6-week study, readers will follow “brave space rules” learning how to stay in hard conversations with one another. *Brave Church* is designed as a small-group resource for those committed to meeting with one another for 6 weeks.

- **How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey Toward Racial Justice**

By: Jemar Tisby, ZONDERVAN / 2021 / HARDCOVER (This book will be released on 01/05/21)

Move from discussing racism to courageously confronting it! Based on the biblical principles of Jesus’ teaching, Tisby presents a real-world handbook for examining our own thinking and establishing a posture of anti-bias action. Offering hands-on suggestions, he encourages us to become part of the solution of upholding human dignity across ethnic lines---beginning within the church. 208 pages. There is also a Study Guide to facilitate discussion.

- **Overcoming Racism Through the Gospel**

By: Dr. M.L. Johnson, XULON PRESS / 2017 / PAPERBACK

Overcoming Racism. is a uniquely-inspired, educational journey that enlightens the reader in understanding the reasoning for racial hatred and how destructive it has been for humanity. Expect to see things from a new perspective, and lessons that have not been taught. Truth is the key element of the word of God, and spares no individual of shortcomings while encouraging everyone to make personal changes for the better. Racism exists to the extent that it does today because the church has abdicated its position as the only earthly representative of the Kingdom of Heaven authorized by God to provide the real examples of love, unity and fellowship.

- **All God’s Children: A Biblical Critique of Racism**

By: Steven L. McKenzie, WESTMINSTER JOHN KNOX PRESS / 1997 / PAPERBACK

Racism is still a contemporary problem. A century ago, many people used the Bible to defend bigoted beliefs and practices. Now, Steven McKenzie insists that the Bible’s message leads Christians away from the narrowness of bigotry to God’s vision of humanity, free from racial division.

- **A Biblical Approach to Racism: A Bible-Based Look at America's Oldest Social Plague**

By: Michael Cromwell, XLIBRIS / 1999 / PAPERBACK

- **Then the Whisper Put On Flesh: New Testament Ethics in an African American Context**

By: Brian K. Blount, Abingdon Press/Nashville/2001/Paperback

The author approaches this study on the New Testament from the perspective of African American peoples in America. Through careful analysis he demonstrates how interpreting New Testament writings from the point of African American slave history reveals the underlying message of liberation in the biblical texts.

- **The Truth about Racism: Its Origins, Legacy, and How God Wants Us to Deal with It**

By: Dr. Philip G. Asante, WESTBOW PRESS / 2014 / HARDCOVER

- **Black and Presbyterian: The Heritage And The Hope.**

By: Gayraud S. Wilmore, Black Presbyterians United, Philadelphia, Geneva Press, 1983

YOU TUBE INTERVIEWS (Both excellent)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Drew+Sams+interview+with+David+Oyelowo.

A Powerful Conversation with actor David Oyelowo | and his pastor, Rev. Dr. Drew Sams, Pastor of Bel Air Presbyterian Church. Mr. Oyelowo and his family are members of Bel Air. With scripture to guide them the two discuss repentance, reconciliation and God's love. 7/2020

<https://youtu.be/rsnk4bLFr0>

A Real Conversation About Race and the Church Six Pastors, a Chief of Police, and small city Mayor discuss racism and how the church should take the lead on racial issues. Although this conversation took place four years ago (July 18, 2016), it is still pertinent.

RELATED ESSAYS:

- <https://lithub.com/unwelcome-in-my-country-unwelcome-in-my-church/> (Note: The author and the pastor mentioned in this essay have subsequently reconciled.)
- www.upperroom.org/resources/hearts-broken-open/ By Robbie Pinter 9/3/20
- www.upperroom.org/resources/the-death-of-civility By Mary Lou Redding, Sept/Oct 2010
- “Letter From Birmingham Jail”, by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1963, Birmingham, Alabama.
- “White Silence is Inexcusable” By Rev. Sidwell Mokgothu, Upper Room Ministries Blog, 6/17/2020
- <https://vtdigger.org/2020/06/22/kathryn-dungy-dear-white-friends/>
- <https://nyti.ms/2P6qaku> Opinion Congressman John Lewis, “Together You Can Redeem the Soul of Our Nation” 7/30/2020

ECUMENICAL STATEMENTS ON THE SIN OF RACISM

- **Presbyterian Church (USA)** [statement on Racism Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- **The United Methodist Church** [social principals](#) and [statement from the Bishops](#)
- **Episcopal House of Bishops** [Pastoral Letter on the Sin of Racism](#)
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** [commitment to combat racism and white supremacy](#)
- **American Baptist USA** Policy Statement on RACIAL-JUSTICE 2019/02

*Resource List Compiled by: Madgetta T. Dungy, Ph.D. September/2020