

Unraveling Racism – submitted by Kymm Hockman

Background:

Race is a human-made concept that was born of the self-interest of people in power – of white people in power, to justify some awful behavior. Defining races created a hierarchy or worthiness based on the color of one's skin. Selfishness led to bad behavior, which sparked racist ideas, developing into racist policies. The consequences have had a ripple effect over the years, creating what we now understand as systemic racism. It is all around us. It's not just the unkind act of one who sees him or herself as better because they are whiter. It's the media displaying black men as criminals at a much higher rate of frequency than what represents reality. It's reenforcing of racial stereotypes in movies, TV and social media. We simply cannot avoid the daily message of racism, so how can we help but develop racist ideas of our own? This is not biblical. Yet the church too has a tainted history in this area. We are saddened by this and we seek to repent. It is time to start unraveling racism in our world and figure out how we can even begin to make amends.

At Prairie Campus we have taken anti-racism seriously. Over the summer of 2020, several book study groups formed. A "Long Repentance" blog study continued in the Fall of 2020. We developed a long list of resources for expanding our learning (please see below). This is not an event, but a journey toward becoming more anti-racist, as we experience God's sanctifying grace. We become more Christlike, the more anti-racist we become. Awareness and understanding systemic racism is a good start, but we can't stop there. We want to help unravel the institutional sin of racism, but just how do we do that? We started an Anti-Racism Advocacy Group at Prairie Campus in September 2020 to keep the momentum going and to seek opportunities to act in anti-racist ways. We meet for one hour at 8pm the second Sunday of each month by ZOOM.

December 2020 Post:

Systemic Racism is huge and complex. Where do we start? What policies are in the way of equity? The Prairie Campus Anti-Racism Advocacy Group has decided to narrow its scope to criminal justice reform (for now). We will seek to learn more in that area, identify partners and advocate for necessary changes to policy. This still may be too broad as there are many aspects to consider- mass incarceration of black men, police accountability, the school-to-prison pipeline, to name a few.

We will seek to engage the larger Prairie Campus congregation as we see the opportunity. We need your prayers and your ideas. We are seeking to see where God is moving in this arena so we can join in his work. In January we will hold a discussion group on the movie "13th" which is a Netflix documentary about the 13th amendment to the US Constitution (abolishing slavery) and its aftermath. We hope you will join the conversation. Stay tuned! All are welcome to join the Advocacy group calls at any time. Contact KymmHockman@gmail.com or CamScott.tx@gmail.com for ZOOM information.

Racism and Anti-Racism Resources for Learning

Compiled from lists found in books like *Waking Up White* and *White Fragility*, along with many shared by colleagues on this lifelong learning journey.

BOOKS, ARTICLES, BLOGS AND WEBSITES

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: New Press, 2010.

Anderson, Carol. *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2016.

Biewen, John. *Seeing White*. Podcast bibliography. Center for Documentary Studies, Duke University, 2015. <http://podcast.cdsporch.org/seeing-white/seeing-white-bibliography>.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America*. 4th ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013. First published 2003.

Brown, Dee. *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*. New York: Open Road Media, 2012.

Coates, Ta-Nehisi. *Between the World and Me*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2015.

———. “The Case for Reparations.” *Atlantic*, June 2014. Dyson, Michael Eric. *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to a White America*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2017.

DiAngelo, Robin. *White Fragility: Why It Is So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism*. Boston: Boston Press, 2018.

Feagin, Joe R. *The White Racial Frame: Centuries of Racial Framing and Counter-Framing*. New York: Routledge, 2013.

Gaskins, Pearl Fuyo, ed. *What Are You? Voices of Mixed-Race Young People*. New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1999.

Irving, Debby. *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. Boston: Elephant Room Press, 2014. **Also see debbyirving.com for additional resources.**

Kamenetz, Anya. “Resources for Educators to Use in the Wake of Charlottesville.” *NPR*, August 14, 2017. <https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2017/08/14/543390148/resources-for-educators-to-use-the-wake-of-charlottesville>.

Kendi, Ibram X. *How To Be An Antiracist*. New York: One World, 2019.

----. *Stamped from the Beginning*. New York: Nation Books, 2016.

Lee, Stacey. *Unraveling the “Model-Minority” Stereotype: Listening to Asian American Youth*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1996.

———. *Up Against Whiteness: Race, School, and Immigrant Youth*. New York: Teachers College Press, 2005).

Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*, rev. ed. New York: New Press, 2018.

A Long Repentance. The Anastasis Center for Christian Education and Ministry. <https://newhumanityinstitute.wordpress.com/a-long-repentance/>

Menakem, Resmaa. *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*. Las Vegas: Central Recovery Press, 2017.

Mills, Charles W. *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997.

Moore, Eddie, Ali Michael, and Marguerite W. Penick-Parks. *The Guide for White Women Who Teach Black Boys*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, 2017.

Moraga, Cherríe, and Gloria Anzaldúa, eds. *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. New York: State University of New York Press, 2015.

Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. New York: Random House, 1992.

Myers, Vernā A. *Moving Diversity Forward: How to Go From Well-Meaning to Well-Doing*. Chicago: American Bar Association, 2011.

———. *What If I Say the Wrong Thing? 25 Habits for Culturally Effective People*. Chicago: American Bar Association, 2013.

Oluo, Ijeoma. *So You Want to Talk About Race*. Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2018.

Raising Race Conscious Children. Home page. [http:// www.raceconscious.org](http://www.raceconscious.org).

Sensoy, Özlem, and Robin DiAngelo. *Is Everyone Really Equal? An Introduction to Key Concepts in Critical Social Justice Education*, 2nd ed. New York: Teachers College Press, 2017.

Shaheen, Jack G. "Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 588, no. 1 (2003).

Singleton, Glenn. *Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools*. 2nd ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, 2014.

Takaki, Ronald. *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*. New York: Back Bay Books, 2008.

Tatum, Beverly. *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria: And Other Conversations About Race*, Twentieth anniv. rev. ed. New York: Basic Books, 2017.

Tochluk, Shelly. *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk About Race and How to Do It*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009.

Van Ausdale, Debra, and Joe R. Feagin. *The First R: How Children Learn Race and Racism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2001.

Wise, Tim. *White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son*. Berkeley, CA: Soft Skull Press/Counterpoint, 2010.

Witnessing Whiteness, witnessingwhiteness.com. Free workshop agendas and curriculum resources.

FILMS

Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed. Shola Lynch, dir. and prod. REAL-side, 2004. [http:// www.pbs.org/pov/chisholm](http://www.pbs.org/pov/chisholm).

A Class Divided. William Peters, dir. and prod. Yale University Films for Frontline, PBS. WGBH Education Foundation, 1985. <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/class-divided>.

The Color of Fear. Stirfry Seminars, 1994. http://www.stirfryseminars.com/store/products/cof_bundle.php.

Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequity, directed by Shakti Butler. Oakland, CA: World Trust Educational Services, 2012. 75 minutes. Cost: \$ 50–\$ 350, depending on intended use.

Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years 1954–1965. Season 1. DVD. Produced by Blackside for PBS, 2009. <https://shop.pbs.org/eyes-on-the-prize-america-s-civil-rights-years-1954-1965-season-1-dvd/product/EYES600>.

In Whose Honor? Jay Rosenstein, dir. On POV (PBS), premiered July 15, 1997. <http://www.pbs.org/pov/inwhosehonor>.

Mirrors of Privilege: Making Whiteness Visible. World Trust, 2007. <https://world-trust.org>.

Race: The Power of an Illusion. Larry Adelman, exec. prod. San Francisco: California Newsreel, 2003. http://www.pbs.org/race/000_General/000_00-Home.htm. 3 hours. Cost: \$ 25–\$ 195, depending on intended use. Extensive supplementary material related to the three-part PBS documentary.

Reel Bad Arabs. Jeremy Earp, dir. Media Education Foundation, 2006. <http://freedocumentaries.org/documentary/reel-bad-arabs>.

The Revisionaries. Scott Thurman, dir. Making History Productions, 2012. <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/revisionaries>.

White Like Me. Produced by Tim Wise. Northampton, MA: Media Education Foundation, 2013. 68 minutes. Cost: \$ 150–\$ 275, depending on intended use.

13th. Ava DuVernay, dir. Netflix, 2016. <https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741>.

From 21-Day Challenge:

Day 17

DAY 18 - Being an ally to POC

“If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

-Aboriginal Activists Group Queensland 1970's

Being an ally is essential to making a more just society. The most important thing is to not give up and try and try again. Being an ally doesn't necessarily mean you fully understand what it feels like to be oppressed. It means you're taking on the struggle as your own

Take a look at this guide to help you understand more about what being an ally means and how to decenter yourself as a white person. <https://quidetoallyship.com/>

Check out this quick video titled, "Turn Performative Wokeness Into Allyship" with Layla Saad, author, speaker & teacher on the topics of race, identity, leadership, personal transformation & social change. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms02RwM_oCI&feature=emb_title

Read this article to understand how sometimes being an ally isn't what you think. <https://apnews.com/article/20a39b6e2d86b561012946b0e2118bbb>

Listen to NPR's Code Switch podcast titled "Safety-Pin Solidarity: With Allies, Who Benefits?" explore the complexities of allyship <https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=516907017:519086653>

Day 19 – How to be an Anti-Racist

Watch this video that explains, while race and racism have a real and significant impact on our lives, race is a social construct and one that has changed over time. None of the broad categories that come to mind when we talk about race can capture an individual's unique story. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnfKgffCZ7U&feature=youtu.be>

[Read](#) this article defining antiracism and why the term is so powerful. <http://www.aclrc.com/antiracism-defined>

Listen to this podcast, hosted by NPR, featuring Ibram Kendi, the author of the New York Times bestseller How to Be an Antiracist <https://www.npr.org/local/309/2019/10/30/774704183/historian-ibram-x-kendi-on-how-to-be-an-antiracist>

Watch this video about the difference between being non-racist and antiracist. It asks that you take action and work against racism wherever you find it including, and perhaps most especially, in yourself <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/video/2016/jan/13/marlon-james-are-you-racist-video>

Day 20 – Black Lives Matter

Watch, (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s29qACe0mEA>) What's wrong with saying "all lives matter"? ABC10 anchor Chris Thomas explains. (5 min)

Read <https://blacklivesmatter.com/herstory/> "Herstory" found on the Black Lives Matter website. In 2013, three radical Black organizers — Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi — created a Black-centered political will and movement building project called #BlackLivesMatter. It was in response to the acquittal of Trayvon Martin's murderer, George Zimmerman

Listen to this interview with Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors talk about the group's trajectory and continuing influence in the modern struggle for civil rights. <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/takeaway/segments/black-lives-matter-five-years>

Listen to Spotify's Black Lives Matter playlist. Don't have an account? You can join for free!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/37i9dQZF1DWWAqc46ZJdZf>