

Oneness Ministry: Deepening Your Understanding

Articles:

We Have Refused to Listen, Article & Prayer of Lament: <https://medium.com/@chrisahall/we-have-refused-to-listen-71d5e191d46f>

How to Talk About Race With Your Kids: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2017/august-web-only/how-to-talk-about-race-with-kids-racism.html>

Why We Must Start Talking About Race in Our Children's Ministries:
<https://childrensministry.com/race-today/>

Recommended Books:

History:

The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby (2019): “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.”

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander. (2010 and 2012): The rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement.

Rethinking Incarceration: Advocating for Justice that Restores by Dominique DuBois Gilliard. (2018): Gilliard explores the history and foundation of mass incarceration, examining Christianity's role in its evolution and expansion. He then shows how Christians can pursue justice that restores and reconciles, offering creative solutions and innovative interventions.

Americas Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America by Jim Wallis (2017): Racism is much more than political, but *rooted in sin*, repentance, morality, and faith and is the key to a revival for racial reconciliation and justice. It is a tool for new conversations within and between churches across racial lines.

The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein (2017): A forgotten history of how the US government segregated America using government-sanctioned policies and practices.

General:

Generous Justice by Timothy Keller (2010): “Keller presents the Bible as a fundamental source for promoting justice and compassion for those in need. In *Generous Justice*, he explores a life of justice empowered by an experience of grace: a generous, gracious justice. “

Oneness Embraced by Tony Evans (2011): “Black/white relations in the culture at large and in the church in particular continue to be a stain on America's respectable reputation. Evans promotes biblical understanding of the Kingdom foundation of oneness.”

Separate no More by Norman Peart (2000): The great strides our society has made since the civil rights era still leaves a disturbing racial divide in our churches and among Christians. Racial reconciliation is not a peripheral matter, but at the heart of the church's message and mission.

Welcoming Justice: God's Move Toward Beloved Community by Charles Marsh and John Perkins (2018): “Historian and theologian Charles Marsh partners with veteran activist John Perkins partner to chronicle God's vision for a more equitable and just world.”

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One Blood: John M. Perkins (2018) "Parting Words to the Church on Race." At 87 years old, John Perkins recalls having spent most of his adult life for the "cause of reconciliation", and here, in possibly his final reflection on his life, the author delivers his 'manifesto', "the principles vital to a complete ministry of reconciliation. This is a challenge to reject the "I don't see color" argument and to embrace the diversity that we see in each other as an essential part of our oneness."

Dream with me: Race, Love, and the Struggle we must Win by John Perkins (2017): *Dream with Me* is Perkins' look back at a life devoted to seeking justice for all God's people, as well as a look forward to what he sees as a potentially historic breakthrough for people of every race.

Let's Get to Know Each Other, by Dr. Tony Evans (1995): "What White and Black Christians Need to Know About Each Other." Mr. Evans names then addresses Myths which many white and black Americans have been told about 'races'. He also provides a clear historical perspective on the Black Church, Black Pastor and 'Black Evangelism', before calling for unity amongst all American Believers.

Roadmap to Reconciliation by Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil (2015): Dr. McNeil has counseled many churches and other organizations in the area of racial reconciliation. She is a pastor and a professor at Seattle Pacific Univ. This book presents a clear sense of direction in helping communities move into unity, wholeness and justice.

The Heart of Racial Justice by Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil & Rick Richardson (2009): The two authors make the "connection between the role of healing prayer and spiritual warfare in bringing about justice". It takes soul change first to bring about social change.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson (2015): A powerful true story about the potential for mercy to redeem us, and a clarion call to fix our broken system of justice—from one of the most brilliant and influential lawyers of our time.

Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debby Irving (2014): The author was an educator who lived her comfortable white upper middle-class life and yet was trying to reach out to students of color with no success. "Then in 2009, one 'aha' moment launched an adventure of discover and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan."

Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman (1949). "Helped shape the civil rights movement and changed our nation's history forever. Thurman's work reaches past anger and reaches toward a vision of unity."

Christians at the Border: Immigration, the Church, & the Bible by M. Daniel Carrol (2013): How to think Biblically about immigration.

More Than Equals by Spencer Perkins and Chris Rice (2000): Living proof that White and Black Christians can live together.

Woke Church by Eric Mason (2018): Dr. Mason challenges America to take a hard look at our history and stand together against the indignities and injustices in our world so as to understand that justice is both theological and sociological.

Right Color Wrong Culture by Bryan Loritts (2014): A leadership fable that explores three cultural expressions that exist within every ethnic group that shows the importance of understanding these cultural expressions when looking for the right leadership to move your organization toward multiethnicity.

The Third Option by Miles McPherson(2018): Miles McPherson speaks out about the pervasive racial divisions in today's culture and argues that we must learn to see people not by the color of their skin, but as God sees them—humans created in the image of God.

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Generic Questions/Conversation Starters):

1. What main themes about race/racial relations stuck out to you the most in relation to current events in our country?
2. How did this [movie, book] challenge the way you view “race”?
3. What made you feel the most uncomfortable while [reading, watching]?
4. Do you agree with the main points made? Why or why not?
5. Looking at this media form through a biblical lens, what spiritual truths or lessons can we learn from this information?
6. What is a personal “call to action” you can take away from this? How about the Church’s (aka, Body of Christ) call to action?
7. Are there things you will do differently in your everyday life after [viewing, reading] this?
8. If you already believed/agreed with the information presented, then how has discussing it in a group setting and hearing other people’s opinions changed or maybe affirmed your perspective?
9. What is something you learned from this that challenged an assumption you have made about race/racism in the past and how will changing your perspective on this assumption impact your daily interactions? The way you work? Your friendships?
10. Are you aware of any ways in which you have minimized the racial experience of someone directly? Indirectly? For POC (people of color) – how has it felt for you when white people are dismissive of your experiences?
11. What are some practical ways that you can support your friends of color in light of this information? For POC, how do you feel most supported by non-POC in your life? Or, how would you best feel supported by them?
12. Did you learn about racism in a classroom setting beyond the concept of slavery/abolition? If so, how accurate was the information that you received compared to what we have just watched/read? What are some new things you learned?
13. Do you have any ideas on how we as a Church can support our community by acknowledging the ongoing issues of systemic racism and how it impacts the unity of the Body of Christ?