

For God So Loved the World: A conversation on Race”

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I. SO WHY NOW? Three reasons . . .

1. I’m a Citizen of a nation:
 - A spate of Recent deaths – tragic, murderous, hisotric.
2. I’m a Pastor of a Church:
 - Some people in my flock are hurting,
 - and some don’t want this conversation at all, or believe that the popular approach is misleading
 - Holding the center – while holding healthy – but potentially uncomfortable – dialog
 - See the extensive resource list
3. I’m a Colleague of Fellow Pastors:
 - What my Black pastor colleagues say is “Say Something”
4. Should it have been sooner . . . well . . . yes

II. SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE SAID, BUT WHAT?

- What word is it that you need?
- What’s your expectation?
- Where are you coming from? (see Questionnaire)

The Direction I’m Coming from:

(The part of which I am conscious!) → An Immigrant (a white immigrant)

1. White Tribalism -- the centuries-long war and terrorist-producing prejudice and quest for superiority
2. Class Consciousness – “seen” primarily in speech
3. Minority Status – 5m Scots and 55-60m English!

The primary Direction I’m Going

- Towards those who are white
- Towards those for whom this conversation is uncomfortable.
- But hoping there is food for thought for everyone . .

The primary questions in my mind are ones like these . .

1. Why should all white Christians pay attention to the issue of race?
2. Why should NPC pay a great deal of attention?

Both questions assume there really is a problem . . .

My Position: “WELL YES: there really is a problem”

- Not just personal but systemic, not limited to but involving lack of access or unequal ability to obtain access to power, justice and opportunity.
- Made more pernicious, serious and deadly serious
BECAUSE OF OUR SPECIFIC NATIONAL HISTORY
 - That involves not only slavery
 - but the long-term impact of ideas and actions that followed slavery until relatively recent times
 - Including the use of the Bible and the collusion of the church and “born again” church people in acts of terror and murder.

SO . . YES, I think there is a problem

In Jesus’ terms (See Matthew 25)

- it is not only about sins of “commission” (trespasses, of which there are many!)
- But even more about sins of “omission” (debts – what does God call us to do now that we have not been doing and we ought now to do?)

Final Quotations from

- John Piper, Bloodlines, 2011.
- Brenda Salters McNeil, Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0
- Romans 12:1-15

RENWICK'S LIST OF RACE RELATED BOOKS & VIDEOS

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NOTE: The fact that book, videos, etc., are on this list does not mean that I agree with everything in them. E.g., when some of these books and videos move from their subject into partisan politics, I am not endorsing their candidates or parties! Rather, these are resources I have read or watched, and I've found something in them that is worthwhile to expand my understanding of the issues, and/or to know what others are thinking. BOLD – indicates my recommendations as “a place to start”

BOOKS

Recent Popular

- How to Be An Anti-Racist (2019) by Ibram Kendi
- Stamped: Racism, Antiracism and You. (2020) By Jason Reynolds (= A “Remix” for youth of “Stamped from the Beginning” (2017) by Ibram X. Kendi
- **Why Are All the Children Sitting together in the Cafeteria (Rev. 2017) by Beverly Tatum**
- White Fragility (2019) by Robin DiAngelo
- So You Want to Talk About Race (2018) by Ijeoma Oluo
- The Color of Compromise, (2019) by Jemar Tisby (Reformed Sem. Graduate)

Recent (Not a Best-Seller)

- **Anxious to talk About It: helping White Christians Talk faithfully about Racism (2017) Carolyn B. Helsel (Presbyterian Pastor)**

Historical /Story

- Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom (Pulitzer Prize, 2018) by David Blight
- Unexampled Courage: The Blinding of Sgt. Isaac Woodard and the Awakening of President Harry S. Truman and Judge J. Waties Waring (2019) by (U.S. District Judge) Richard Gergel
- Just Mercy (2014) by Brian Stevenson (a Christian attorney)
- To Be A Slave by Julius Lester (1968)

Other

- The Souls of Black Folk by W.E.B. DuBois (the “classic” exploration of race in America, 1903)

Christian Authors

- Uncommon Ground (2020) ed. Tim Keller and John Inazu
- **Bloodlines: Race, Cross, and the Christian (2011) by John Piper**
- **One Blood: Parting Words to the Church about Race and Love (2018) by John Perkins**
- Be The Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation (2019) by Latasha Morrison
- Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0: Moving Communities to Unity, Wholeness and Justice (2015, 2020) by Brenda Salter McNeil
- Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America, (2017) by Michael Eric Dyson (Professor at Georgetown)

Articles

- The Economist, July 2020. “The new Ideology of Race and What’s Wrong with It” <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/07/09/the-new-ideology-of-race>
- The Dehumanizing Condescension of White Fragility, The Atlantic, by John McWhorter (Article is online)
- Statement of Brian Blount, May 31, 2020, President, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA. <https://presnb.com/2020/statement-from-union-seminary-president-brian-blount-on-the-death-of-george-floyd/>

VIDEOS/Movies, Documentaries (many more)

- The Color Purple (movie, 1985; book, 1982)
- Selma (movie 2014)
- **Mr. Civil Rights -- Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP (2104 Documentary)**
- Marshall (movie 2017)
- Hidden Figures (movie 2017)
- Green Book (movie 2018)
- **Reconstruction: America After the Civil War (2019 PBS series) by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**

- (Marvel's) Black Panther (movie 2018)

WEB Videos

Beverly Tatum (TED-X Talk) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_TFaS3KW6s

Phil Vischer (creator of "Veggie Tales")

<https://digg.com/video/phil-vischer-veggie-tales-history-of-race>

Tim Keller: Racism and Corporate Evil: A White Guy's Perspective

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhJcTKTVGo>

Tim Keller and Bryan Stevenson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyBfOX5OHRQ>

Tom Skinner (Inter-Varsity, 1970)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvKQx4ycTmA>

Conservative Black Voices

Thomas Sowell (prolific) Hoover Institute "A Conflict of Visions: The Two Visions"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGvYqaxSPp4&list=PL43DD7F5427E0D629&app=desktop>

Walter E. Williams (Professor Economic, George Mason) Is Racism Responsible for Today's Black Problems?

https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/07/29/black-family-structure-racism/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=black-family-structure-racism?utm_source=TDS_Email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MorningBell&mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiTm1RNWpUQmIamhtWmpFdyIsInQiOiIwZHBwdjRRNktVYStYXozUzhFRFRvM01wM01ib0VoQzV3dFpVWnpOMmRtOWNST2g4TFBBMWFkOEt0OEVRdWtqRE5PU0d0bUx0Y0dWY1g4eWxTNHlyOGZBcU5rSXN1NDQrZiBtQ3N3S0tidmJCaDVWRW5BZ0t3cWQycVVVVldKaiJ9

Voddie Baucham, Founders Ministries "Ethnic Gnosticism"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lp3nV6S_fYU

Virgil Walker & Darrell Harrison: "George Floyd and the Gospel"

<https://thebarpodcast.com/JT/>