

Responding to Racial Injustice: An Annotated List of Resources for Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church

*These resources have been read or listened to by at least one Cornerstone elder or pastor.
They are offered in the spirit of provoking Christian thought and action on a difficult topic.
It is not intended that you agree with all the content.*

Books:

•***Divided by Faith* by Michael Emerson and Christian Smith**

What keeps us so divided in the blood-bought Church of Jesus Christ? Christian sociologists Emerson and Smith researched just that. This book has become the standard for understanding the racial divides in the American church. (Bill)

•***The Color of Compromise* by Jemar Tisby**

This book calls the church to reflect the beauty of the Christ-centered unity of the New Testament, with a clear-eyed look at the history of how the church has contributed to division in our history. Not a pleasant book to read, but important history. (Bill)

•***White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to be White* by Daniel Hill**

Given to me by a pastor friend, one of the first books I read on the topic. Published by InterVarsity Press, the book helped me see racial assumptions I bring to situations. My 23 year-old daughter also read it and found it thought provoking. (Jeff)

•***Understanding the Culture* by Jeff Myers**

This book is a look at how the biblical worldview applies to challenging elements of our culture, such as technology, arts and entertainment, marriage and sexuality, the environment, poverty, war and justice. Each chapter challenges the reader with why and how a Christian should care about each issue. The discussions about poverty and justice are particularly helpful. (Devin)

•***Beyond Racial Gridlock: Embracing Mutual Responsibility* by George Yancy.**

In this book Christian sociologist George Yancey evaluates various secular approaches to racial issues, and then provides an approach that recognizes human dignity and depravity and involves mutual responsibility. (Bill)

•***More Than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City* by William Julius Wilson.**

Harvard sociologist William Wilson presents a framework for understanding the formation and maintenance of racial inequality that integrates cultural factors with two types of structural forces: those that directly reflect explicit racial bias and those that do not. This book is full of helpful insights. (Bill)

•***Cynical Theories: How Activist Scholarship Made Everything about Race Gender, and Identity--and Why This Harms Everybody* by Helen Pluckrose and James Lindsay.**

If you are interested in digging into the various forms of Critical Theory and their philosophical roots, I recommend this book. It is written by two liberal atheists who recognize the threat that these movements pose to a democratic society. (Bill)

Articles/Blog Posts:

•“How Should We Respond to Racial Injustice in America?” by Pastor Kynes.

The nine articles sent out in his weekly “pastoral epistles” are now combined into one document which is now available on our church website.

• Tim Keller, pastor and co-founder of The Gospel Coalition, presents a series of essays on the Bible’s view of race and justice—and how it compares to the reigning paradigms of our day in four installments (Bill):

1. **“The Bible and Race”**
2. **“The Sin of Racism”**
3. **“A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory”**
4. **“Justice in the Bible”**

•Martin Luther King, Jr. *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

<https://swap.stanford.edu/20141218230016/http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/kingweb/popular%5Frequests/frequentdocs/birmingham.pdf>

This is a classic statement from the civil rights era. It is a must read for those who want to understand the driving passion of Dr. King. It is beautifully written. (Bill)

•“On the Use and Abuse of Critical Race Theory in American Christianity” by David French.

<https://frenchpress.thedispatch.com/p/on-the-use-and-abuse-of-critical>

French argues that Critical Race Theory can help identify the reality and effects of oppression but it can veer into a version of religious fundamentalism. French has a number of helpful articles on the subject of race. (Bill)

•“The Case for Reparations” by Ta-Nehisi Coates

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations>

You may disagree with his argument, but it is critical that you hear it as Coates chronicles the effects of racist policies that have contributed to the current situation. (Bill)

•“Identity Politics and the Death of Christian Unity” by Jonathan Leeman

<https://www.9marks.org/article/identity-politics-and-the-death-of-christian-unity/>

A helpful introduction to this topic by an astute pastor. (Bill)

•“Not White Fragility—Mutual Responsibility” by George Yancey

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/white-fragility-mutual-responsibility/>

The author reviews and critiques “White Fragility,” a popular and often recommended book by secular “social justice” advocates. The article looks at the book from an academic and biblical view. (Jeff)

•**“Church, Stand Firm Against Racism” by Bill Reed**

<https://www.efca.org/blog/reaching-all-people/church-stand-firm-against-racism>

Published on the Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) website, the article offers practical wisdom from a pastor who’s lived through 70-plus years of racism. Bill is the area superintendent of Chicagoland ethnic churches for the Great Lakes District of the EFCA. It stood out because of the author’s impassioned insights and plea for Christian action. (Jeff)

Videos:

•**Holy Post - Race in America**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGUwcs9qJXY&feature=youtu.be>)

Phil Vischer (the creator of Veggie Tales) presents the lingering problems of racial inequities in America in a concise and engaging way in this 17-minute video. This is a great place to start. (Bill)

•**Holy Post - Race in America (part 2)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u-yun74BJEc>

In this 26-minute video Vischer picks up from his previous video, pursuing questions related to the Black family, the role of welfare, corporate responsibility, and what we can do in response to the problem of racial injustice. Very well done. (Bill)

Podcasts:

(You can find these podcasts by searching your favorite podcast platform or at links below)

• **Every Square Inch, hosted by Robert Cunningham**

<https://tcpca.org/every-square-inch-podcast>

Pastor Robert Cunningham’s three-part series on “Racism In America” was absolutely the best treatment of the subject I’ve ever heard. I’ve recommended the series to many people who all said the same thing. Each is about 45 minutes. Robert is the Senior Pastor at Tates Creek Presbyterian Church (PCA) in Lexington, KY. (Jeff)

• **As in Heaven: A Christian Conversation on Race and Justice**

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/podcasts/as-in-heaven/>

A podcast in The Gospel Coalition network that has a number of episodes devoted to various aspects of race and racial justice from a Christian perspective. (Bill)

• **The Briefing, hosted by Albert Mohler, podcast posted on June 18, 2020**

<https://albertmohler.com/2020/06/18/briefing-6-18-20>

In this episode Dr. Mohler discusses the “Black Lives Matter” movement. Although not everything there is to say on the topic, this is a nice, short (27 minute) summary of the movement from a Christian worldview. Part I is called, “A Sentence or a Movement? A Look at Black Lives Matter. Part II is called “What Is the Worldview Behind the Black Lives Matter

Organization?” Part III is called, “Black Lives and Black Lives Matter: Thinking Carefully and Prayerfully.”

Websites/Organizations:

•United? We Pray

<https://uwepray.com/>

Started by a pastor and others from Capitol Hill Baptist Church in D.C., “United? We Pray is a ministry devoted to praying about racial strife—especially between Christians. We want to encourage Christians amid the strife to rely upon God in prayer. So our prayers can be informed, we strive to learn and write about race, racism and its effects, and theology; we aim to be biblical, beneficial, and clear in all our efforts. While we’re burdened for all racial strife, we focus on racial strife between Christians because of the unique privilege and stewardship God has given his people: to bear witness to Him and to love all people, especially one another (Gal. 6:10).” (Bill)

•The AndCampaign

<https://www.andcampaign.org>

This Christian organization seeks to provide a third way in today’s political environment, combining compassion and conviction. Their mission is “To educate and organize Christians for civic and cultural engagement that results in better representation, more just and compassionate policies and a healthier political culture.” I find their director Justin Giboney to be very impressive. (Bill)