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Pastoring the Urban Church

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### The Deeply Formed Life

The purpose of this book is to show Christians how to not be like the world and to not be racist like the world. We as Christians need to stand apart from everyone else and make a difference. Just because there is racism in the world does not mean that we as Christians need to conform to the things of this world and act just like them. The church should be a place where all races feel welcome and can fit in but unfortunately, the church has started to look just like the world and has begun to judge one another and we are no longer looked at as one color which is the color red for the blood of Jesus but we now see all colors in the world.

After reading “The Deeply formed life” it raised a couple of questions through out and there were something I can honestly say that I never thought about before along with things I don’t fully agree with and things I couldn’t help but strongly agree with that will effect and help me take a look at how I make my approaches from here on out. Something that I can stand on 100% and believe is when the author said "We all have racial habits. We all have conscious and unconscious ways of racially engaging others. Some habits are rooted in love, justice, and appreciation for others' differences; other habits are rooted in ignorance, fear, and a propensity to marginalize whoever is different." I find that this is true because we as people tend to either go to or act a certain way around certain people because of the comfortability level that we have with that person.

Now we all have our reasons for why we feel or are more comfortable with some than other but nonetheless it is visible amongst people this issue may be racial but it doesn't just stop there we can stand apart from one another based on relationships that we have with them, which caused me to disagree with this statement partially after writing the notes down for it. Yes I agree racial habits may be a giant factor in the matter but relationships with that person is the other half of that same coin. Continuing on through the book, something that both changed my view of the world and spiritually and that I will keep with me is when the author said "We have all been socialized by our families of origin and surrounding culture to see people in particular ways. We often live our lives without ever reflecting on the stories and lies we've been told about certain groups of people." We call this gossip in today's world. We often are strongly influenced by something that we hear about someone or something without doing anything ourselves on the matter. Spiritually we are taught to not do this which still raises the question of why do we still do it in the world and even in the churches where we are taught no to?

"Patterns are the repeated behaviors, practices, habits, or ways of thinking that extend from one generation to the next." Which then creates trauma causing us to react. These patterns can be something as simple as we call one person a thief and we tell our children that that person is a thief and to hide our stuff when around them which then leads our kids to create that link of if he is a thief then his son or daughter is as well. We are generationally creating division and teaching our children behaviors because of things that we believe. Which led me to really take a step back and think about what I say and what leaves my mouth. Too often we will get into a situation or argument and end up spreading or thinking something that isn't in our intention but once that seed is planted it's hard or at times impossible to get back. Before preaching or saying

things we must take a step back and ask ourselves is this really what we want to put out there or teach or are we pressing the trauma we built on to others.

One way that I can implement what I have learned from this book is by taking the section of where it talked about the habit of incarnation listening. The reason I feel like I can implement this is because I used to be annoyed whenever someone talked about race and would bring up the past of what happened to their ancestors. I understood that they were hurt but at the same time did not feel like they should be because it did not directly happen to them or someone they knew living today. I realize now that I need to be more sensitive to what people are feeling and that trauma like that can live on through the family even if it did not affect them directly. I need to listen and just be sensitive to the way they are feeling.

Another implication that I am taking away and what I will be telling others is how God's purpose is not just for saving souls but that He wants to create a new family. I personally feel that if people started looking at God as Him just wanting a family, they would be more acceptable to allowing Him in because many people don't have families and they could relate to God on the fact of wanting a family. People need to start looking at God for the love that He wants to give out to us and the time that He just wants to spend with us.