

Book:

Subversive Witness: Scripture's Call to Leverage Privilege is written by Dominique Dubois Gilliard. The book was published in 2021 by Zondervan Reflective.

The Author

Dominique DuBois Gilliard was born and raised in metro Atlanta. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University. He earned a master's degree in history and divinity from North Park Theological Seminary. Dominique has served as a professor and pastor and most recently serves on the pastoral staff at New Hope Covenant Church in the Fruitvale district of Oakland, California. He is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Covenant Church (E.C.C.). He serves on the board of directors for the Christian Community Development Association (C.C.D.A.) and as the director of racial reconciliation pilgrimages at the Pacific Southwest of the E.C.C.

Analysis:

The book begins with the author's racial justice pilgrimage he took called Sankofa. The Sankofa freedom pilgrimage takes the pilgrims from slavery, lynchings, civil rights beginnings, the Jim Crow laws, the Black Lives Matter Movement, domestic terrorism, systematic terrorism, institutional sin, and the collaboration of the Church at every step. The book's thesis is that "Privilege exists because of our unwillingness to deal soberly with structural sin and the legacy it has bred." P. 9. a proper understanding of privilege empowers one to show God's love to those needing a helping hand. Mr. Gilliard skillfully unravels biblical stories of biblical heroes and heroines who used their privilege. For example, the author explained how Pharaoh's daughter,

Esther, Moses, Paul and Silas, Jesus, and Zacchaeus leverage privilege to make a difference in the lives of people they encounter.

Target audience:

The author's target audience is the unrepentant Church turns a blind eye to racial injustices. "The body of Christ is called to be a signpost of God's love, mercy, and Justice in the world. P. 5. The Church must repent of its complicity in the racial injustices of Black and Brown people and begin the healing process.

Strengths:

The book is easy to read. It is well-written and laid out in a manner that is easy to follow. Mr. Gilliard is an articulate storyteller; the book draws you into his world, mind, and passion for the disenfranchised.

Critiques:

There are no noted critiques of the book.

Usefulness:

The book could be used as a bible study. Each chapter can be one week's lesson.

Take a Ways. I can envision the book as a resource for men facing challenges with the criminal justice system.

1. I have a moral and ethical responsibility to defend those oppressed.
2. I have a right to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.
3. I must accept that there is no equal justice under our current legal system.

Significance in Ministry

In many ways, I am privileged. First, I am privileged to be a Black man with a doctoral degree. Second, I am privileged to have the title of associate vice president due to the privileged life that God has entrusted to me. Third, I will be working with the H.E.A.L Center Community Development Corporation. I envision a holistic change in the Flatbush neighborhood in Brooklyn. I will work with the nonprofit to empower Black and Brown people to become productive citizens by providing programs encouraging educational enrichment, immigration, job training, housing assistance, and emergency food services. Privilege can be used for God and evil; I am challenged to you it to make a difference in my Church's community.

I have been challenged to confront the truth at all costs. In my ministry, I must speak the truth to friends, family, neighbors, community, and congregations. As suggested by the author, my ministry will be about remembering the past, confession, lamenting, and repentance