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Intr. To Racial Reconciliation

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### Road Map to Reconciliation

Racial reconciliation is a hot topic issue. In this class, my eyes have been opened in a way that scares me. I now understand why my black brothers are upset. They have been oppressed through systemic racism that is not visible to many people of color. Some things can be done to ensure all black people know about this systemic racism. The first thing that needs to happen is that the churches must take responsibility for getting people together. Salter argues that reconciliation is meant to bring a multiethnic group of people from similar socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. For others, it meant pursuing racial and ethnic diversity (p. 23, Kindle). Frank Coleman Jr from the class argues that the church needs to come together (Coleman Jr). Larry discusses from the course to ask God for what he wants you to do, and He will tell you (Larry). Salter argues that it is difficult to get leaders to come up with a meaning of reconciliation (p.23 Kindle).

Salter defines reconciliation as an ongoing spiritual process involving forgiveness, repentance, and justice that restores broken relationships and systems to reflect God's original intention for all creation to flourish (p. 26). Racial reconciliation is a sensitive topic. Therefore, it is critical to approach it with love and in light of positivity. Salter argues that some feel ashamed because of how white people treated black people in history (p. Kindle). Dr. Perez argues that white people see racism as an individual, while black people see it as a group problem. Therefore, racial reconciliation is an ongoing process, and systemic racism must be addressed. Among those who seek to follow Christ and understand that reconciliation occurs to many of our

black people. Salter argues that there must be repentance (p.24). Therefore, if repentance is needed, there must be Forgiveness. However, forgiveness and justice are not enough to produce racial reconciliation. The definition above addressed the wounded in the past and stressed the intent for all creation is to flourish.

### My World View

The church should engage in racial reconciliation. Unfortunately, they have not been successful on this journey or at least not where the church would hope to be. There has been some progress, but so much needs to be done. This book has impacted my worldview tremendously. Who is doing the teaching and learning is significant in understanding systematic racism. It is significant to acknowledge both individualism and people groups. Scripture teaches, "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the father's iniquity, nor the father suffer for the son's iniquity" (Ezekiel 18:20). Furthermore, workout your salvation (Philippians 2: 12-13). It is essential to look at individual work, but the church is one body. Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against her" (Matt. 16:18). The group here is emphasized.

The Author did an excellent job on this book. I agree about the definition of Racial Reconciliation. The importance of addressing the past in a compassionate style would certainly shy light into darkness. Our white brothers need to feel guilty but saddened by the unfortunate dehumanization that black people had to endure. We should certainly repent from the action of our ancestors and come together as the body that Christ intended.

Our culture constructs race well. Biblically, there is only one race, the human race. Everyone came from Adam and Eve; therefore, we are one race. Theologically I would argue of

two races the most, the redeemed and the unredeemed. However, scripture clarified that we owe everyone one thing "love" (Romans 13:8-14). It does not matter where they come from and what they are doing; we owe them, love. Last, this book intends to create harmony between African Americans and white people. While doing something about, we should always pray to God and trust his word. He will not lead us astray, and he has our best interest for us.

#### References:

Salter McNeil, Brenda: Roadmap to Reconciliation 2.0: Moving Communities into Unity,  
Wholeness and Justice

Zoom Class Dr. Nathaniel Perez

Biblehub.org