

Written Assignment #1: Article Review

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The focus of this article review will be on race, theology, and missions. From reading the article, *Can "White" People Be Saved*, the issues that are addressed are race, theology, and how it impacts the works of mission. We understand that there are many Christians that have different beliefs of who and what God is, which falls under theology. On the matter of race, anyone who desires to work in the mission field needs to understand that God is for all people, there is no exclusion as to who can hear the gospel. In the article, Jennings points out, "At this moment, I am less concerned about the efficacy of salvation with this question and more interested in the status of two keywords in the questions: salvation and whiteness. These terms point to history that we yet live within, a history where whiteness. These terms point to history that we yet live within, a history where whiteness as a way of being in the world has been parasitically joined to a Christianity that is also a way of being in the world. It was a fusion of these two realities that gave tragic shape to Christian faith in the New World at the dawn of what we now call the modern colonialist era, or colonial modernity," (Jennings, *Can "White" People Be Saved*, 2018 pg: 27). The reason why people who are unfamiliar with Christianity call Christianity the "White-Man" or "Western" religion is because the settlers exploring to different countries enforced Christianity on the people from the land when they took over their land. Changing whichever land they settled in, they changed everything about culture, tradition, and religion.

As I was reflecting on this article, something that I believe that I need to change is understanding that Christianity is not the better religion. During freshman year in undergrad, I took a class called Cultural Anthropology and the basis of the class was learning about other cultures, traditions, and learning how to incorporate Christ. One of the biggest take I had from that class was to never come into the country or culture and try to erase everything by teaching

them Jesus Christ. At that point, you will be insulting people and they would want nothing you have to offer even if it is Jesus Christ. Rather what should be done is learning from other people about their way of life, understanding how everything was established. That is how I think people who are pursuing a career in mission should understand. When entering a place or area where people are not familiar with Jesus Christ it is best not to come into their lives and change everything. For all you know, not everything needs to be changed rather just needs the light of Jesus.

After reading *Can "White" People Be Saved*, what I came to understand is the gospel does not have any race attached to it. Does Christianity have its origins, of course! Everything and anything has a beginning. When understanding the history in Christianity, we come to understand that it originated in Jerusalem and spread out through the work of Jesus' disciples and people coming to know who Christ is. In Ephesians 2:14-16 it says, "For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility," the intention of God's nation and kingdom is for everyone to be one. Everyone is together. With God and who He anticipates to share His kingdom, He does not discriminate against race. If it were to be so and God intended for there to be one ethnic race, then what would be the explanation of the other ethnicity being created and opposes God desires and plans? It would not make sense for the reason of God being a creator. He is not only a creator of things, rather He is also a creator of people. With the diversity of man it reveals the heart of God and his beauty. That is the

impression and expression we need to show all people we come across for all people to understand that God created with purpose.

*References*

Love L. Sechrest, Johnny Ramírez-Johnson, and Amos Yong. (2018). Can “White” People Be Saved?: Triangulating Race, Theology, and Mission