

Raheem Hamdi
March 3, 2023
Book Analysis

Subversive Witness

The Sankofa journey was revolutionary for me and my life. It has made such a huge impact on me and how I see the world. I am so grateful that I was able to participate in this journey. I have to give credit to the man who wrote this phenomenal book and who was also the host and guide of the trip, Dominique Dubois Gilliard. He wrote “Subversive Witness” which is a very compelling book about the role of Christian faith in advocating for justice and addressing systemic injustices in society. The book puts on a phenomenal showcase of the legal injustices in the world and how we have fought against the physical powers of this world that try to hinder African Americans because of their race. It teaches us about spiritual journeys and gives us scripture and examples of God being in some of these civil rights activists' lives. Dominique argues that Christians must be willing to subvert the dominant cultural norms and values to be true witnesses of Christ's love and justice.

“Subversive Witness” is divided into three parts which all talk about different arguments supporting Dominique's overall statement. The first part of the book talks about the theological foundations of subversive witness. He uses scripture to showcase the biblical teachings and principles that support the role of christian faith in advocating for justice. An example of scripture that he uses is Ephesians 6:12 NIV “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” I remember Dominique using this verse on the trip also as a way to say our ancestors were willing to lay down their blood and flesh for what's right because they know there is a bigger thing worth fighting for. They are willing to fight and

maybe go to heaven as long as it means they are fighting for what's right. The second part of the book is where Dominique begins to showcase specific examples of subversive witness in action, drawing on the experiences of historical and contemporary Christian leaders and activists who have worked to challenge injustice and promote social transformation. A key activist talked about in the novel is of course Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who is a known christian and has talked about on many occasions how his faith has inspired his activism. The final part of this wonderful book explains the practical implications of subversive witness. He talks about how the reader should be able to implicate some kind of action after reading his book, and try to change the world. Dominique argues that as christians we should be willing to participate in actions such as advocacy, organizing, and activism to make change and that their work must be rooted in deep faith.

To conclude, "Subversive Witness" by Dominique Dubois Gilliard was a great and compelling novel about how the christian faith is and should be connected to the movement against legal injustices and discrimination that many people of color still face to this day in America. Dominique's writing is clear and very knowledgeable yet still intriguing. It also was very easy to understand and overall was just a fantastic book that talks about a sad but dark truth that needs some light.