

**Book:**

Tisby, Jemar. *Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*. Grand Rapids, MI: ZONDERVAN, 2020. The book made the best seller lists of the *New York Times*, *USA Today*, and *Wall Street Journal*.

**The Author:**

**Jemar Tisby** has a BA from Dame; and MDiv from The Reformed Theological Seminary. He is the president of The Witness: A Black Christian Collective. He is currently a Ph.D. student in history at the University of Mississippi. Rev Tisby accented Christ as his savior in a Church's youth group.

**Analysis:**

The *Color of Compromise* is a profoundly moving account of the Church's complicity in slavery, lynchings, The Jim Crow Era, the civil rights Movement, Black Lives Matter, and Mass incarceration. The book painfully tells the history of the transport of enslaved Africans to the Americas and traces and documents the impact of the slave trade on the lives of Black people in the United States of America. In addition, the book details the inhumane treatment of Black people and how the Church, through the years, has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices.

The journey through the *Color of Compromise* is similar to The Legacy Museums. Both the museum and the book take one through the journey from enslavement to mass incarceration Both the museum and the book provide a comprehensive history of the dehumanizing treatment of Black people in America. In addition, Both the book and museum trace the history of Black

people 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 focuses on the American Church's unchristian behavior of supporting racism.

**Target audience:**

The author's target audience is the Christian Church, a complicit and unrepentant Church that turns a blind eye to racial injustices. Calls the Church to stop its complicity in racism. He urged the Church to cancel its racially comprising ways and to practice courageous Christianity. Although Tisby calls for the Church to be repentant, he says there can be no repentance without confession and no confession without the truth being spoken.

**Strengths:**

Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism is the most informative and compelling book I have read in my two years in seminary. Rev Tisby draws the reader first and does not let one go. The book is easy to read. It is well-written and laid out in a manner that is easy to follow. Rev, Tisby laid out the history of slavery intriguingly.

**Critiques:**

There are no noted critiques of the book.

**Usefulness:**

The book could be used as a bible study or with youth and young adults with the energy and desire to make a difference actively. In addition, the book is a valuable tool to help heal the racial divide

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

1. I have been called to be a courageous Christian who embraces racial and ethnic diversity.
2. I have been challenged not to allow fear to keep me from speaking out about racial injustices.
3. I have the power through God to make a difference.

### **Significance in Ministry**

I am not sure how this book would be significant in my ministry. I am the faculty advisor to the Black Student Union at Orange Community College. I see myself as a guide leading the students to be more aware of their history and the history of the Church in its complicity in the mistreatment of Black people.

I would like to see my Church, Alliance Tabernacle, conduct a weekend workshop on the compromising of the Church and invite sister White Churches to be involved in the conversations. The White Church must hear about the injustices committed by their forefathers from the Black Church and show what is happening today. I will speak to my pastor this week about what our Church can do to spark a conversation with our Caucasian brothers and sisters.

I have been challenged to join an organization actively advocating for racial and social justice.

I do not know what percentage of my ministry will be in racial and social justice, but it will be central to my ministry when I retire. I have been challenged to confront the truth at all costs. I must speak the truth to friends, family, neighbors, community, and congregations in my ministry.

As suggested by the author, my ministry will be about remembering the past, confession, lamenting, and repentance.