

The Color of Compromise

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The Color of Compromise shed light on how Christians had a part in the oppression of blacks. He talks about the history of Columbus and how he colonized Africans using White supremacy as his weight to rule over them. He also defends slavery by making light that the civil war started with the Bible and it split southerners and Northerners in what they think the Bible says about slavery. He then refers to now and how the Back Lives Matter just brought about Division. Tisby spoke about the American church and how its involvement in the dividing of race even started. His focus is not on Laws that ensure it but the root of where it even started. Tisby is bringing light to the Church in a way that is not talked about often. Really pushing us to make noise by going against the grain in our churches and calling out racism as it is. He also speaks about making Juneteenth a Holiday. I am discovering that although my Pastor is Hispanican the Associate is Black we speak about racism and injustice as it only happens when something big happens like the riots during the pandemic. Ask me if we have talked about it once this year?

One of the things I thought about when I used to teach the Youth is our curriculum, it honestly was geared towards whites. We would always have that discussion with our Pastors. Our church is in an Urban area filled with minorities, poor, young men and women who probably don't know what it is to be picked up by a parent from school. The reading changes the narrative for my current ministry. How do I educate those around me on the things we need to take a stand for. Getting them to recognize that the secular world's issues on racism and segregation started with us who profess as Christians. Tisby says: *“Education must lead to liberation. The acquisition of knowledge should not result only in personal enlightenment but*

also the alleviation of oppression.(205)” It is more than you being free and woke by it but every person you shed this light on brings us closer to change. This separation of the Bible and the World's stuff has to be hashed out. Social Justice is biblical. So if hosting freedom schools and pilgrimages is something we must do to teach us to be activists, why not as a church body get involved. Jesus went from teaching in synagogues to teaching in boats and different territories.

I realized I live in this small bubble. My worldview was about the size of the palm of my hand. I knew that the American church had its hand in the inequality pot because of the KKK, but I didn't know how large it was. You hear about Columbus in school but not him using the Bible to justify White superiority. This has expanded my worldview. As much as it pains me to say that I had a little moment where I understood why they want to take prayer out of schools. I obviously understand it on a spiritual level of its importance, but if injustice, and inequality stemmed from the Church I wouldn't want anything to do with it either. But my understanding of the Word of God took captive at that moment. I agreed most with Tisby on bringing awareness of this to the Church speaking out on Racism as it is and not using “generalities” such as” Racism is Wrong” or “euphemisms like “racial tension” or racially charged” instead of calling out the racist and the oppression that is happening within our own church. Condoning events that are not diverse in race directly aim at the speakers. I really didn't disagree with Tisby. I felt he educated you on the root of this broken system and opened your eyes to see how we still practice Whiteness within our own congregations and no whites have to even be present. What saddens me most about this book was chapter one the story of the young girls who died because of hate. I don't think this book changes my theology too much because of teachings I was receiving before reading this book. But it definitely has shed light as I mentioned before on the root of the issue of racism and where it started.