

Book:

Faithful Anti Racism: Moving Past to Systematic. Published by InterVarsity Press (2022), The book examines research from the Race, Religion, and Justice Project led by Michael Emerson. The book delves into Christians' values and ethical behavior regarding racial issues. The authors challenge the reader to move past the talk and enter the fight against racism in both practical and hopeful ways. Faithful Antiracism: Moving Past to Systematic can serve as a template to identify racism, call it out, and progress to healing and unity.

Authors:

Christina Barland Edmondson is a higher education instructor, organizational consultant, and author. Dr. Christina Edmonson has served in various roles in higher education, including as the Dean for Intercultural Student Development at Calvin University. She is also a certified Cultural Intelligence facilitator, public speaker, mental health therapist, and consultant in ethics, equity, and Christian leadership development.

Chad Brennan is the coordinator of the Race, Religion, and Justice Project and founder of Renew Partnerships, a Christian research and consulting ministry focusing on diversity and race in faith-based organizations. Chad is passionate about working collaboratively with fellow Christians to help promote racial justice and unity in the Church and our society: He leads the Racial Justice and Unity Center, a collaborative effort of Christian practitioners and experts across the U.S.

Analysis:

Faithful Antiracism: Moving Past to Systematic is profoundly moving, engaging, penetrating, and revealing. *Faithful Antiracism* does more than say that racism still exists. The book gives practical sound biblical advice for Christians to bridge the gap that has divided and separated the

Church. The authors are apparent racism does exist. The Church played a significant role in facilitating the Middle Passage. The Church endorsed slavery and enslaved people. The Church promulgated the Jim Crow laws and turned a blind eye to separate but equal. The Church supported and still supports politicians that are racist and who spew racist agendas. Faithful Antiracism: Moving Past to Systematic systematically recommends unifying the Church and bringing us to the just and unified body that Jesus Christ has called us to be. Make every effort to unite yourselves in the Spirit, binding yourselves with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future (Ephesians 4:3–4, NLT).

Target audience:

Faithful Anti Racism: Moving Past to Systematic targets White Christians still holding on to the past. White Christians who are afraid of Black people attend primarily White Churches and have little or no interaction with Black people. The books call for Blacks and those who love and favor justice to speak up boldly and call out injustices in the Church and the Country.

Strengths:

The book's strength is that it uses data and research to make a case for racial justice and harmony. The book calls us to be accountable. The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. *Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!* (Luke 12:2–3, NLT). The book does not hide racist ideology or cover it up.

The book is honest, straightforward forward, and soul-searching. It uses analytical data to identify inconsistencies in the Church and calls all Christians accountable when addressing racial injustice.

The authors provide practical advice for being change agents; we must disrupt racial injustice.

We must partner with others who have a similar mission

Pray for grace, humility, patience, and love.

We must focus on biblical teachings.

Avoid being a part of religious organizations that support injustices.

Disrupt political forces that perpetuate racial injustice.

Christina Barland Edmondson and Chad Brennan pointed out that Jesus overcame prejudices and the world. The authors presented data documenting that we, like Jesus, can overcome racism if we work together to address the racist issue facing minorities in the United States.

Critiques:

Faithful Antiracism: Moving Past to Systematic is well written. There are no notable critiques.

Take a Ways.

1. Large and complex obstacles hinder more confirmed justice and equality but can be overcome.
2. With God's help, Christians can help dismantle and destroy the giant wall between the races.

3. There is strength in being united. Therefore, Christian organizations should work together in unity to defeat racism.
4. We must accept the fact that White dominance and White supremacy exist.
5. It's my responsibility to help build and sustain racial harmony.
6. I should not be afraid of using white dominance and white superiority. But, unfortunately, they do exist in and outside the Church.

Significance in Ministry

I am reminded of Cole Arthur Riley's quote from James Baldwin in her book *This Here Flesh, Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us*. "People who shut their eyes to reality simply invite their destruction, and anyone who insists on remaining in a state of innocence long after that innocence is dead turns himself into a monster." (p.111).

Christians must be at the forefront of addressing racial issues. Not by themselves but walking hand in hand with White brothers and sisters who are concerned and burdened to see that justice.

The mission of Christ's Church, first and foremost, is to proclaim and demonstrate the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives, Lord in and of our Church, Lord of its ministries, and to proclaim and demonstrate Jesus Christ as Lord to our community and the world. Jesus gave his disciples the Great Commission before he ascended into heaven ¹⁸ *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you to the very end of the age."*

Christ did not command his followers to enslave people; He did not ask them to whip, chain, rape, flog, or be verbally and sexually abusive. Jesus was about love. My ministry, the Church's ministry, must be about love and unifying the Church.

The ministry of the Church and my ministry should be the same as our savior. In the sermon on the Mount, Jesus called his disciples to show love, mercy, peace, and righteousness. We can do no different; racism has no place in the Church or society.