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Sankofa Journey
Book Report

The Color of Compromise

Thanks to the Sankofa journey, I had the opportunity to read Jemar Tisby's book, "The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism." The book provides a historical overview of how the American church has been complicit in perpetuating racism throughout its history. Tisby's writing is both informative and engaging, making this book an essential read for anyone interested in understanding the role of the church in America's ongoing struggle with race.

Tisby begins the book by discussing the role that slavery played in shaping the American church's attitudes toward race. He explains how slaveholders used the Bible to justify slavery, arguing that it was God's will for white people to have power over black people. Tisby highlights how this belief was propagated by leading theologians of the time, such as Charles Hodge and Robert Lewis Dabney, who both argued that slavery was a "positive good." By using the Bible to justify their actions, slaveholders were able to manipulate the church's teachings to support their cause.

Tisby also examines the ways in which the church was complicit in the Jim Crow era of segregation. He discusses how many white churches supported segregation, arguing that it was necessary to maintain social order. Tisby points out how these churches ignored the teachings of Jesus and instead embraced a theology that justified the mistreatment of black people. He also explores how the Civil Rights Movement

challenged the church's complicity in racism, with many white Christians opposing the movement.

Throughout the book, Tisby examines how the church has failed to fully address issues of race and racism. He explains how many churches continue to be segregated, with white churches remaining separate from black churches. He also points out how many Christians refuse to acknowledge the reality of systemic racism and instead blame individuals for their own misfortunes. Tisby argues that the church must take an active role in addressing these issues if it wants to be a positive force for change in society.

One of the most striking aspects of the book is Tisby's use of historical documents and personal stories to illustrate his points. He includes numerous quotes from prominent theologians and politicians throughout American history, highlighting the ways in which they supported racist beliefs and policies. He also shares stories of individuals who fought against racism, such as civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer. By including these personal stories, Tisby helps to humanize the impact of racism and shows how individuals can make a difference in the fight for equality.

Tisby's book is not only informative, but it also challenges readers to take action. He argues that the church must be actively anti-racist, rather than simply not racist. He encourages Christians to engage in conversations about race and racism, and to work toward building diverse and inclusive communities. He also challenges the church to address issues of economic and social justice, recognizing that racism is not just an individual issue, but also a systemic one.

As a college student, reading Tisby's book has helped me to understand the role of the church in perpetuating racism throughout American history. It has also challenged me to think about my own beliefs and actions regarding race and racism. The book has prompted me to have difficult conversations with friends and family members about these issues, and to take a more active role in working toward racial justice.

In conclusion, Jemar Tisby's "The Color of Compromise" is an essential read for anyone interested in understanding the role of the church in perpetuating racism throughout American history. Tisby's use of historical documents and personal stories helps to illustrate the impact of racism on individuals and society as a whole. His call to action challenges readers to take an active role in the fight for racial justice. I highly recommend this book to anyone looking to broaden their knowledge on the role of the church in perpetuating racism throughout American History.