

Some Terms and Ideas to Explore

narrative of racial difference,
tokenism,
colorism,
internalized racism,
white centering,
model minority myth,
intersectionality,
code-switching,
equity v. equality (the difference)

Five Books to/for a Christian Audience

“Divided by Faith” looks at the involvement of Evangelicalism in racial justice and provides research on the ongoing presence of racism in churches.

“Prophetic Lament” discusses our nation’s history, identity, and diagnoses the difficulty we have understanding or utilizing lament as a part of our worship.

“Reading While Black” takes a look at the biblical interpretation and some scriptural passages that relate to racial justice.

“The Color of Compromise” looks in depth at the history of the American church and its leadership when it comes to racism (also available via video series).

“Rethinking Incarceration” incorporates a good deal of history, theology, and statistics to discuss the relationship Christianity has had with incarceration in America.

Five Books to/for a General Audience

“Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria” does an incredible job discussing identity formation and racial experience.

“Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption” walks through stories of people on death row as a way of profiling various legal cases, precedents, and problems in our judicial system.

“How to be an Antiracist” is influential in our nation’s conversation and uses stories to depict different forms of racism in our society.

“The Brief and Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks” profiles the treatment of minorities by doctors and hospitals as it tells the story of one our the most important scientific developments of the century.

“I’m Still Here” details the experience of navigating white spaces as a black woman encountering routine misunderstanding, ignorance, and opposition.

Five Films

"True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality" walks through some of the legal precedents and developments over the last several decades, as well as the significance of the narratives that are told by our nation.

"When They See Us" theatrically depicts the story of the "Central Park 5" and is a powerful portrait of racism as a systemic problem.

"Freedom Riders" is an inspiring account of some young Christians (primarily) who had a dramatic impact on the Civil Rights Movement through their willingness to endure suffering to confront racism.

"The House I Live In" examines some of the problematic structures involved in policing and the prison industrial complex.

"Black Panthers: Vanguard of a Revolution" is a surprising look at what the movement stood for, why, and how our government responded.

Broader American History, Theology, and the Civil Rights Movement (not mentioned above)

"Race: Power of an Illusion" traces the evolution of race as an idea in our country.

"Many Rivers To Cross" (Henry Louis Gates Jr.) provides an historical overview of the role of race in our country (slavery, Jim Crow, Civil Rights).

"The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song" (also Gates Jr.) looks at the role of faith in the Black community over time. Each of the few above are a series and range in length.

"Eyes on the Prize" walk through the Civil Rights Movement with a more in-depth analysis.

Each of the above is a miniseries.

"The Christian Imagination: Theology and the Origins of Race" is an examination of Christianity and its relationship with racism.

"Unsettling Truths" digs into the doctrines and Christianity of colonialism (Doctrine of Discovery, Manifest Destiny).

"Lies My Teacher Told Me" re-examines the stories typically told about our nation's history.

"Slavery by Another Name" (book or documentary) looks at the development of incarceration in the Jim Crow Era.

"Caste: the Origins of our Discontent" is a book that examines the ways the Jim Crow Era and segregation policies developed a racial caste system in our nation.

“Unforgivable Blackness” (Ken Burns, PBS doc) tells the fascinating story of Jack Johnson.

“The Color of Law” catalogues a variety of laws and policies (like redlining) that shaped who could live and work where.

The Murder of Emmitt Till” is a PBS documentary (episode) on a horrific event that fueled the Civil Rights Movement.

“Jesus and the Disinherited” is a short book that was influential upon MLK’s theology and approach to civil disobedience and nonviolence.

“Strength to Love” is another short book that articulates MLK’s thinking wonderfully.

“The Autobiography of Martin Luther King” is a collection of his journals, letters, and speeches in a chronological fashion.

“Bearing the Cross” is his standard biography and VERY long.

“Selma” is a powerful film that depicts the voting rights marches and a variety of the tensions and dynamics involved.

“The Autobiography of Malcolm X” is the standard go-to work on the development of his thinking and involvement in the Civil Rights Movement.

“One Night in Miami” does a great job of depicting via film some of the tensions within the movement. “

I am Not Your Negro” is a film based on the writings of James Baldwin about the death of multiple civil rights leaders. Baldwin also has a debate with William Buckley at Cambridge that can be found on YouTube (pretty relevant today).

“The Education of a WASP” is the memoir of a woman uncovering racism in her life and community during this era.

“Harvest Empire” is a documentary that looks at the role of racism in the treatment of immigrants in our country.

“The Crusades of Cesar Chavez” is the standard of biography of his life and work in the movement.

“An Organizer’s Tale” is a great collection of Chavez’s writings and speeches.

Contemporary Works about Racial Justice (not included above)

“*Crips and Bloods: Made in America*” is a documentary that looks at the surprising context that birthed these two gangs.

“*LA 92*” looks at the events leading up to the LA race riots.

“*The New Jim Crow*” is the standard work on policing and mass incarceration that digs into statistics and policies shape these issues.

“*13th*” is a documentary that connects the dots from the Jim Crow Era to Mass Incarceration and some of the current political rhetoric.

“*Time: the Kalief Browder Story*” is a miniseries that documents a variety problems in our legal system.

“*Between the World and Me*” is another widely read book that discusses the experience of being a black man in our time.

“*So You Want to Talk About Race*” walks through a variety of the terms and arguments around racism today.

“*White Fragility*” outlines patterns of thought and behavior white people have when confronted with or discussing racism (widely read and influential).

Other Christian Works on Racial Justice and Reconciliation

“*Let Justice Roll Down*” tells the story of John Perkins who was central to the Racial Reconciliation Movement among Evangelicals.

“*Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*” is a theological examination of recent years’ events and what God’s justice means for the black community.

“*I Bring the Voices of My People*” critiques the racial reconciliation movement and incorporates a more contemporary approach to racial justice that draws upon CRT.

“*Be the Bridge*” is a great book introducing some of the history and themes of justice and reconciliation. They also have a variety of other resources online at bethebridge.com (small groups, trainings).

“*How to Fight Racism*” speaks on a practical level and offers ways to engage the issues.

“*White Awake*” and “*White Lies*” by Daniel Hill has insights into navigating these issues as a white pastor.

“*Insider Outsider*,” “*Many Colors*,” and “*Becoming All Things*” dig into dynamics of racial dynamics and cross-cultural ministry.

Additional Works on Racial Identity, Experience, and Theology

“Brown Church” and *“Mañana”* discuss the theology and experience of the Latinx community.

“Rescuing the Gospel from Cowboys,” “Shalom and the Community of Creation,”
“Whitman’s Gospel,” dig into Indigenous experience and theology.

“Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee,” is a significant work that recounts the historical accounts of our nation’s treatment of Native Americans.

“The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian” is a memoir that profiles some of the dynamics of growing up on and off of a reservation.

“Christianity, Social Justice, and the Japanese American Incarceration During WWII,”
“Struggle to be the Sun Again,” and *“Grassroots Asian Theology”* explore Asian American theology and experience.#