

Week 4: Sin & Structures, Part I

I. Introduction: Checking in

A. What are my honest questions and reactions?

B. Why is it so hard to move from talking about Scripture to talking about Race?

1. Responses tend to be _____, not just logical.
2. We're afraid of being called _____.
3. Many of us lack a sense of what it means to be _____.

II. Four Characteristics of Being _____

A. Not having to do a lot of thinking about racial/ethnic identity!

1. White as the norm/default/dominant
2. Racialization: a racialized society is “a society wherein race matters profoundly for differences in life experiences, life opportunities, and social relationships” (Emerson/Smith); a narrative of racial difference (Bryan Stevenson)

B. Carrying around an “Invisible Knapsack”

1. Unearned advantage as well as unearned disadvantage
2. Some examples (including “the ability to _____”)

C. Low stamina for talking about race

1. Signs of our defenses going up: anger, fear, guilt, shame, silence, arguing, disengaging or leaving
2. Our brains react to an intellectual threat the same way they respond to a _____ threat.
3. Two pieces of good news

D. Formed by a system that tells us that _____ is better.

III. Racism: Prejudice + Power (*with big H/T to Ryan*)

A. Some definitions

1. Ijeoma Oluo: “any prejudice against someone because of their race, when those views are reinforced by systems of power.”
2. Be the Bridge: “*Racism* is a system of advantage based on race, involving cultural messages, misuse of power, and institutional bias, in addition to the racist beliefs and actions of individuals.”

B. A popular myth: racism as solely “individual, conscious, and _____”

1. Austin Channing Brown: often “white people are more worried about being called _____ than about whether their actions are in fact _____.”
2. Theology of sin & power of structure -- none of us are exempt from having warped views about _____.

IV. Conclusion: “Knowing Your Own Strength”

 SUGGESTED RESOURCES

Online:

- “Whiteness 101,” from Be the Bridge (also: “Be the Bridge” Facebook group)
- “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,” Peggy McIntosh
- “You’re Not Going to Believe What I’m About to Tell You,” The Oatmeal (*note that there is a ‘clean’ version at https://theoatmeal.com/comics/believe_clean)

Books:

- *White Awake: An Honest Look at What it Means to Be White*, Daniel Hill
- *White Fragility: Why it’s So Hard for White People to Talk about Race*, Robin DiAngelo and Michael Eric Dyson

Lenten Devotional:

- “An American Lent,” <https://repentanceproject.org/index.php/an-american-lent/>