

Trouble I've Seen - Chapter 1

When You "Fit the Description"

Trip after junior year of college to Washington State

Phone call from mom: Brother arrested and held for four months

His crime: "Being a young black man in a white controlled society."

Recent incidents continue to expose "the deep racial divisions that exist in our country."

"The majority of white people believe that racism is a national problem more than a problem in their own communities."

"Churches have often been the least helpful place to discuss racism and our white-dominated society."

"Churches operating out of dominant cultural intuition, perceptions, assumptions, and experiences define the problem (of racism) one way, while most black people and other oppressed groups bear witness to an alternative reality."

What do Christians who participate in dominant society do when their perceptions contradict the experiences of historically oppressed groups?

Are we prepared to listen? Can we take on the image of Jesus in the midst of our racialized society?

The problems with the language of being "colorblind"

Exchange between Drew and white suburban pastor on perspectives (Foam Cup)

Drew's book will examine the challenges of racism for the church

"The church must confront its popular definition of racism, which has historically never implicated the white majority by its framing of the problem."

Many assume that racism is only about individual racial prejudice and refuse to think about the larger racialized patterns of society that shape our habits.

Drew's argument: The church's understanding of racism is generally "too thin, narrow, and deficient for it to be antiracist in its witness."