

## **Trouble I've Seen - Chapter 7**

### **The Lure and Status of Respect**

“Money, Power & Respect” by The LOX

This song puts a black aspirational twist on an old and familiar tune. “The song holds a mirror to dominant society’s internal motivations and exposes the real lure these dominant cultural values have on those within subcultures of American life.”

Social hierarchy enables a people to make their particular values dominant and these values shape minorities who are left out and denied the opportunity for full participation in society and the pursuit of what is respectable and successful.

This lack of societal affirmation creates unhealthy attempts to pursue standing in society and leads to the unconscious affirmation of the very standards that crushed preceding generations.

“Rather than renouncing the way society marginalizes people, racial minorities can uncritically adopt the very ideological perspectives created by dominant culture. These perspectives indirectly perpetuate injustice in our country and around the world.”

The Residue of Imperialism: Visit to Kenya

“The residue of British colonization remains in Kenyan culture. It is impossible for any people who have been colonized or oppressed to not feel the lure of those in power.”

The Doctrine of Respectability: “Black people in America have a long history of trying to find acceptance by conforming to the norms of the oppressive and dominant group.”

Do Not Be Conformed: I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.—Romans 12:1-2 (NRSV)

“The church must be a place where we take seriously the call to nonconformity in the way of Jesus.”