

Trouble I've Seen - Chapter 9

Where Do We Go From Here?

“We as Christians must follow Jesus and courageously break allegiances with white supremacist, classed, and patriarchal hierarchies, joining in solidarity with the stigmatized.”

Seven Jesus-Shaped Practices for the Antiracist Church:

Share Life Together – This is not simply the idea of merely attending the same church service together as people from another racial group. Sharing life together means intimately identifying with the marginalized and oppressed.

Practice Solidarity in the Struggle – Following Jesus in the work of liberating physically, socially, and spiritually oppressed people. “Solidarity requires that socially advantaged people realize that their lives in this racialized society requires them to use their bodies as a living sacrifice.”

See the World From Below – We are tempted to keep our eyes fixed on the work of the powerful rather than those with whom Jesus maintained solidarity in his life and ministry. Christians from the dominant culture should change their habits “so that those on the margins become the main stage.”

Subvert Racial Hierarchy in the Church – “The church must subversively embrace ... the diverse gifts and varied perspectives that exist within it. It must intentionally privilege the voices and perspectives of those in society who are most neglected, forgotten, ignored, and silenced.”

Soak in Scripture and the Spirit for Renewed Social Imagination – The church must be committed to deep engagement with the contents of scripture and the presence of the Spirit through regular and sustained attention to Bible study and spiritual practices. This will lead to a Jesus shaped social imagination.

Seek First the Kingdom of God – The church must learn to focus its activities and witness on the Kingdom of God rather than success by the standards and values of the dominant culture. How do we participate in the economy of God?

Engage in Self-Examination – The church must embrace a life of continual self-examination and Spirit-filled transformation in keeping with the way of Jesus as a sign, instrument, and foretaste of the Kingdom he proclaimed.