

# **Racism, Social Justice, and the Woke Movement (Part 1)**

## **From Whence Cometh My Clarity?**

Introduction

### I. Passages to Consider

A. Psalm 19

B. Proverbs 2

Also: Psalm 119:105, 130; Proverbs 30:5-6; II Timothy 3:16-17

**Equipping Hour**

## II. Imaginary Impediments to Clarity

A. White skin

B. White culture

C. White privilege

D. White authors

E. White seminaries

F. White churches

## III. Sinister Advantages of Obscurity

A. Absolution (Gen. 3:12; Pro. 19:3)

B. Authority (Ps. 119:33-34; Jn. 7:18; Col. 4:4-7)

## QUOTES

1. “Pan-Africanists and Black Nationalists use the term ‘woke’ to refer to no longer being naïve nor in mental slavery. We have borrowed the term and redeemed it to be used in the context of being awakened from deadened, sinful thinking... Woke is a word commonly used by those in the black community as a term for being socially aware of issues that have systemic impact. This social awareness doesn’t come from just watching the news or reading history through a traditional lens. Being woke has to do with seeing all of the issues and being able to connect cultural, socio-economic, philosophical, historical, and ethical dots. A similar term is *conscious*.” — Eric Mason, *Woke Church: An Urgent Call for Christians to Confront Racism and Injustice*, 25
2. “1. **Consider sources:** When you hear someone present information on racial dynamics, ask yourself, “what is this based on?” Is it their opinion? Is it based on research? Are their sources reliable? Do they have expertise?
  2. **Seek out new perspectives:** Be open to perspectives that are outside your current news/media, reading list, and social circles. Look for ways that motivated reasoning and confirmation bias may be hindering your clarity.
  3. **Know your Bible:** Always go to the source of our faith. In community seek full understanding of our Lord’s teachings.
  4. **Assess your racial clarity:** We are developing a free, online inventory tool that can help individuals and organizations. We plan to release it later this month (October). Subscribe to the newsletter...to be notified when it is available.
  5. **Books:** *The Color of Compromise*, *The Elusive Dream*, and *Unsettling Truths*, among others. We are also writing three books based on our data findings: *Faithful Antiracism* (Brennan and Edmondson), *Ghosts in the Room* (Bracey), and *The Grand Betrayal* (Emerson).” — Christianity Today, “Racial Clarity is Essential (and Difficult) for Many Christians”
3. “Black Christianity historically, I would come to understand, has claimed that white slave master readings of the Bible used to undergird white degradation of Black bodies where not merely one manifestation of Christianity to be contrasted with another. Instead they said that such a reading was wrong. Enslaved Black people, even those who remained illiterate, in effect questioned white exegesis... The social location of enslaved persons caused them to read the Bible differently.” — Esau McCaulley, *Reading While Black: African-American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*, 17