

Recommended Resources for Building a Foundational Understanding of Race

These resources were selected because they speak to the great cultural divide of how racial justice and reconciliation is understood or misunderstood. The Racial Justice and Reconciliation Collaborative of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) wants to facilitate an openness to hearing different perspectives and to interacting with the literature available with empathy and curiosity.

It is upon each believer to decide whether they agree or disagree after reading, watching and listening to the listed resources in the entirety of the context they were written and spoken. Speakers represent their own views, not necessarily the views of the National Association of Evangelicals. Non-NAE materials included do not imply NAE endorsement.

Books

"Beyond Racial Gridlock" by George Yancey

Sociologist George Yancey surveys a range of approaches to racial healing that Christians have used and offers a new model for moving forward. Yancey's vision offers hope that people of all races can walk together on a shared path — not as adversaries, but as partners.

"Cultural Identity and the Purposes of God" by Steven Bryan

Steven Bryan presents a biblical framework for thinking about cultural identity and experiencing cultural diversity as a positive good that God intended. Writing from more than 20 years of experience in cross-cultural mission work in Ethiopia, Bryan examines historical and political aspects of nationality, ethnicity and race.

"Generous Justice" by Timothy Keller

Timothy Keller explores a life of justice empowered by an experience of grace: a generous, gracious justice. This book offers readers a new understanding of modern justice and human rights that will resonate with both the faithful and the skeptical.

"How to Heal Our Racial Divide" by Derwin Gray

Derwin Gray walks us through Scripture, showing us the heart of God, how God from the beginning envisioned a reconciled multiethnic family in loving community, reflecting his beauty and healing presence in the world.

"One Blood" by John Perkins

John Perkins speaks honestly to the Church about reconciliation, discipleship and justice ... and what it really takes to live out biblical reconciliation. He holds that true reconciliation won't happen until we get intentional and relational.

["Talking About Race" by Isaac Adams](#)

Isaac Adams examines what is at stake if we ignore this conversation, and why there's just as much at stake in how we have that discussion, especially across color lines (i.e., with people of another ethnicity). This unique approach offers insight into how to listen to one another well and seek unity in Christ.

["The Bible Told Them So" by J. Russell Hawkins](#)

J. Russell Hawkins recounts how southern white evangelicals in the late 1960s preached and practiced a segregationist Christianity believing it reflected God's will, later embracing the rhetoric of colorblindness and protection of the family as measures to maintain both segregation and respectable social standing.

["The Next Evangelicalism" by Soong-Chan Rah](#)

Soong-Chan Rah calls the North American church to escape its captivity to Western cultural trappings and to embrace a new evangelicalism that is diverse and multiethnic. This prophetic report casts a vision for a dynamic evangelicalism that fully embodies the cultural realities of the 21st century.

["The Third Option" by Miles McPherson](#)

Miles McPherson argues that we must rise above the issues that divide us and be part of something bigger. The Third Option challenges both believers and seekers to fully embrace God's goodness and power.

["White Awake" by Daniel Hill](#)

It's crucial to understand both personal and social realities in the areas of race, culture and identity. Daniel Hill provides a resource for white Christians to explore a new perspective on being white and also empowers them to be agents of reconciliation in our increasingly diverse and divided world.

["White Too Long" by Robert P. Jones](#)

Robert Jones demonstrates how deeply racist attitudes have become embedded in the DNA of white Christian identity over time and calls for an honest reckoning with a complicated, painful and even shameful past in order to salvage the integrity of their faith and their own identities.

Articles

["A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory" by Timothy Keller](#)

["Justice in the Bible" by Timothy Keller](#)

["Letter to My Son" by Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)

["Letters from a Birmingham Jail" by Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

["The Bible and Race" by Timothy Keller](#)

["The Condition of Black Life Is One of Mourning" by Claudia Rankine](#)

["The Long Obedience of Racial Justice" by Walter Kim](#)

["The Sin of Racism" by Timothy Keller](#)

["The Trayvon Martin Case: A Moment for Evangelical Reflection" by Marlena Graves](#)

["What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?" by Frederick Douglass](#)

Videos

[Holy Post: Race in America](#) by Phil Vischer