

St. Andrew's Easter 2022 Book Study: In *Racism, not Race*

Week 4: May 15th

In *Racism, not Race*, the authors offer a welcome invitation to see ourselves as members of one human race, disputing the widespread assumption that there is a genetic foundation for the racial differences that we observe in our society. In our book study, the discussion is engaging, respectful, and freeing, as we grapple with material from the book. Last week we looked at how our thinking about athletic ability is affected by the skin color of the athlete. This Sunday—in week 4 of the 5-week study—we turn our attention to the impact of racism on people of color.

Join us in the Cloister after church—and bring your coffee!

Here are some talking points we will use as we reflect on Chapter 8: “Driving While Black and...”:

- Bryan Stevenson and Michelle Alexander write that imprisonment today is nothing more than the continuation of Jim Crow and slavery. More Black men are in prison now than were slaves in the 1850s! Of course, this is partly due to the growth of the U.S. population, but that fact is still alarming. Today, an astonishing one in three Black men will spend some time behind bars. Such a rate of incarceration is facilitated by an increasing militarization of the police and the differential patrolling of this force in Black and brown communities. It is a way to exert control. It is not about safety. It is not about rehabilitation. It is about control. It is about racism. P. 167
 - Notice what happens in your body as you read these words.
 - Can you imagine living in an equitable world that respects the dignity of every human being? As you walk around such a world in your imagination, what changes in your body?
- Contrary to most people's understanding, the federal government has done far more to help white people gain wealth than it ever has for nonwhites. (p 176)
 - What has been your understanding about this?
 - What wealth have you inherited or expect to inherit?
 - What wealth do you expect to pass on and to whom?
 - How does race factor into your experience?