

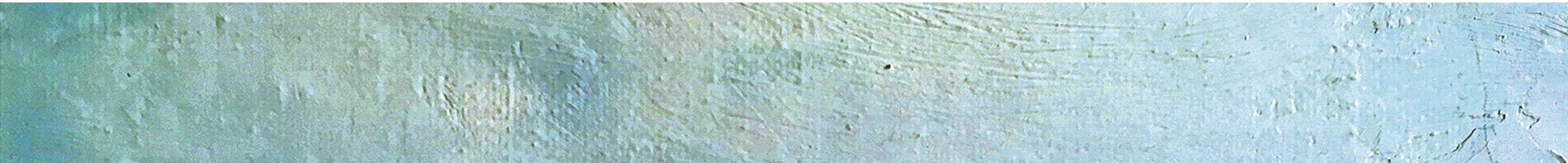


Justice + Reconciliation
The Roots of Injustice & Division

Reconnecting the Gospel to Justice & Reconciliation



Reconnecting Justice & Reconciliation to Spiritual Formation

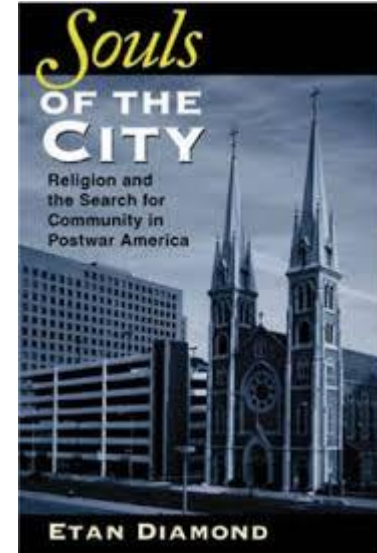
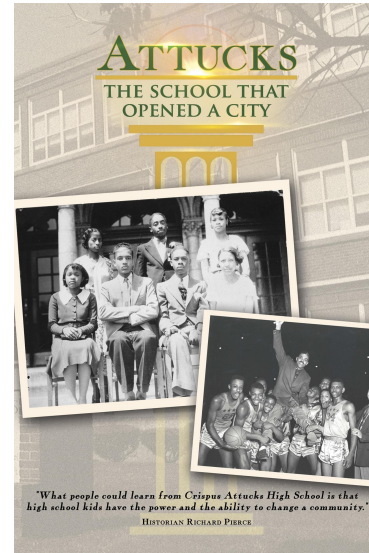
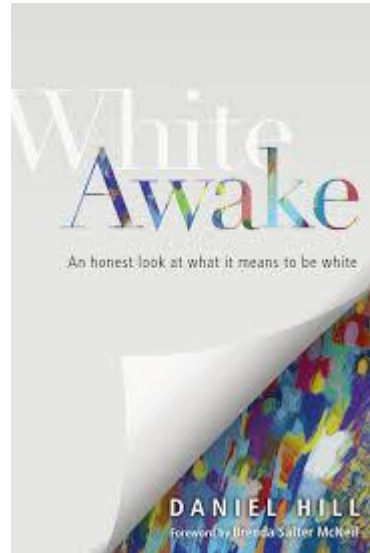
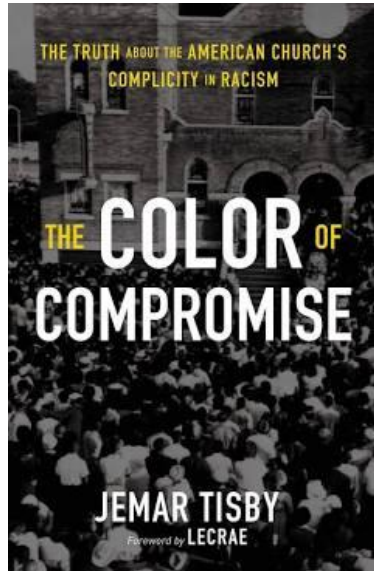


Justice & Reconciliation:

Restoring people, places, and systems from hostility to harmony with God, others, and creation

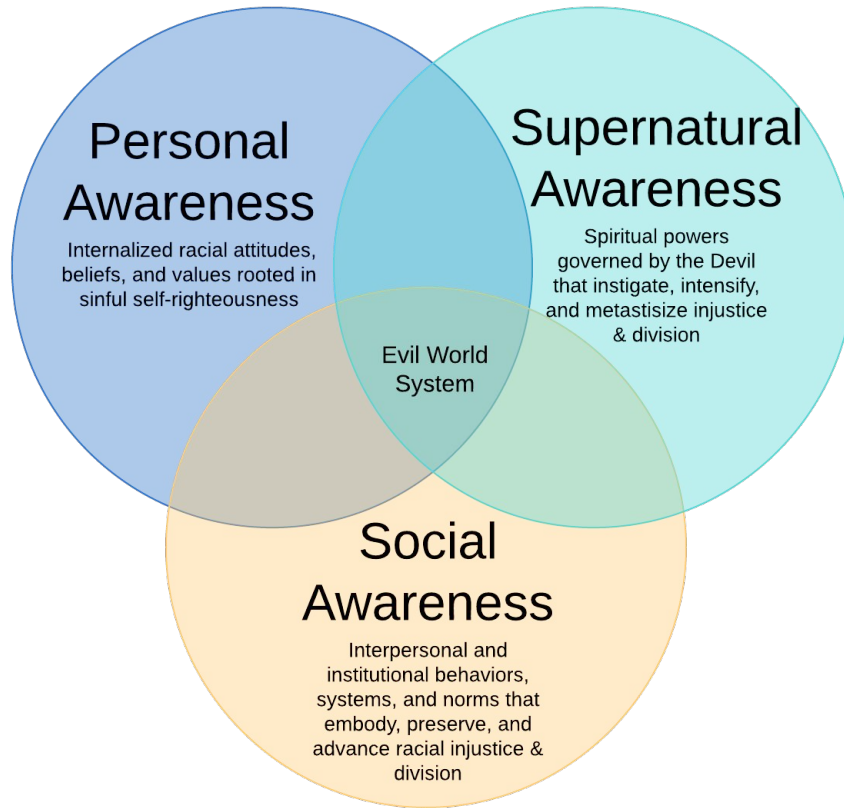


somaindy.com/justice





**A BIBLICAL FRAMEWORK
FOR EVIL**



PERSONAL SIN

Definition: Internalized racial attitudes, beliefs, and values rooted in sinful self-righteousness.

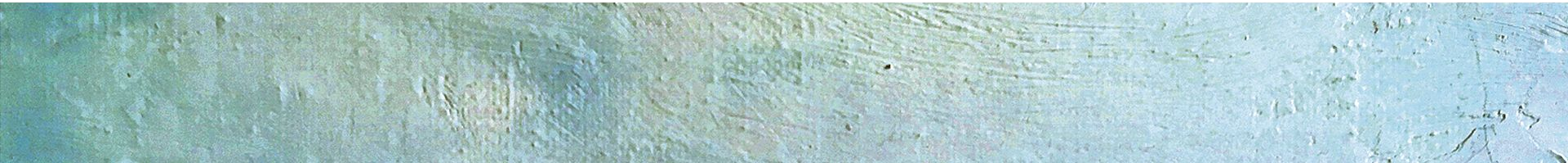
Examples: Genesis 3, Romans 1:29-32, Eph 2:14



SOCIAL SIN

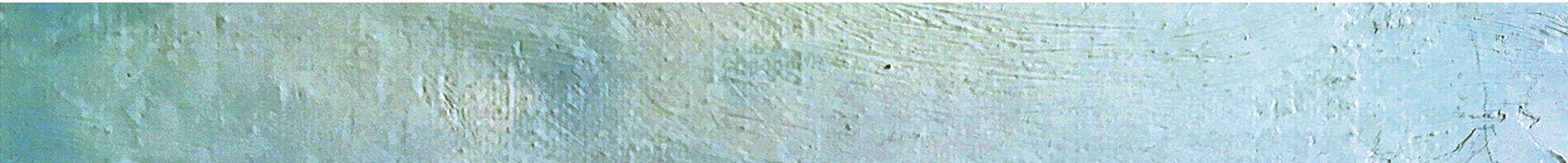
Definition: Interpersonal and institutional behaviors, systems, and norms that embody, preserve, and advance racial injustice and division.

Examples: Genesis 4, Exodus, Amos 5, Isaiah 10 & 58, Acts 6 & 15

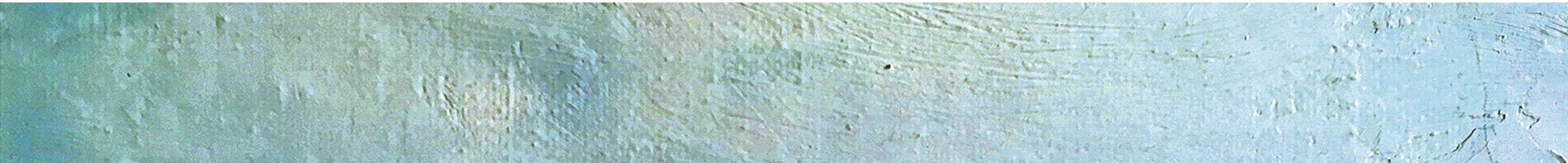


Structural/Systemic Racism:

The cumulative effect of racist feelings, beliefs, and practices that become embodied and expressed in policies, rules, regulations, procedures, expectations, norms, assumptions, guidelines, plans, strategies, objectives, practices, values, standards, narratives, histories, records, and the like, which accordingly disadvantage the devalued race and privilege the valued race.



For most white evangelicals, however, sin is limited to individuals. Thus, if race problems - poor relationships - result from sin, then race problems must largely be individually based...Absent from their accounts is the idea that poor relationships might be shaped by social structures, such as laws, the ways institutions operate, or forms of segregation...



Although much in Christian scripture and tradition points to the influence of social structures on individuals, the stress on individualism has been so complete for such a long time in white American evangelical culture that such tools are nearly unavailable. What is more, white conservative Protestants believe that sinful humans typically deny their own personal sin by shifting blame somewhere else, such as on “the system.”

Michael Emerson + Christian Smith

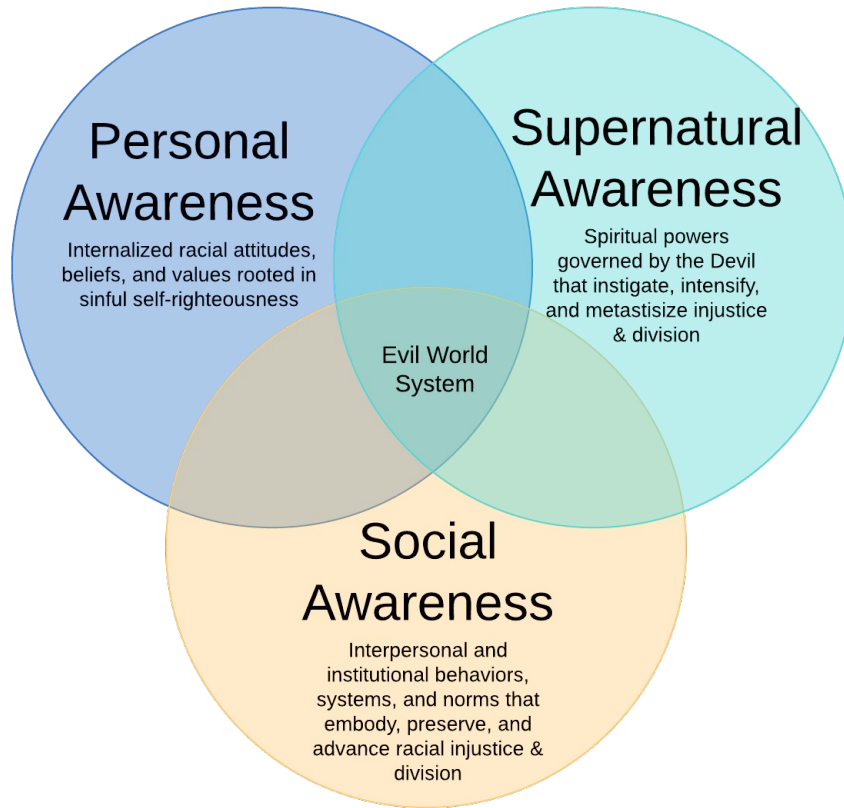


SUPERNATURAL SIN

Definition: Spiritual powers governed by the Devil that instigate, intensify, and metastasize injustice & division

Examples: Genesis 3; Luke 11:15; John 8, 14:30; Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:9



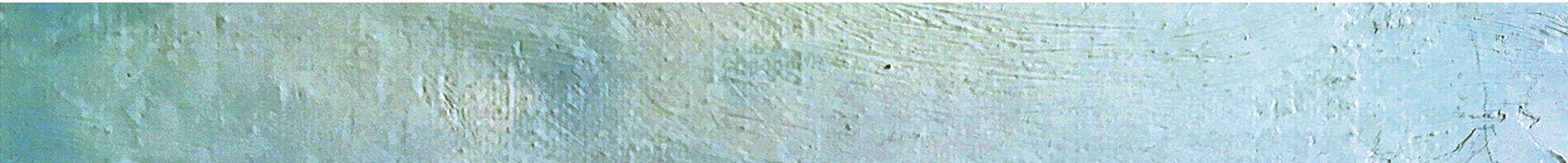




THE RACIAL HISTORY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Where common memory is lacking, where people do not share in the same past, there can be no real community. Where community is to be formed, common memory must be created.

George Erasmus



My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee...

Acts 26:4-5



And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Acts 26:15-18



We must honestly confess the truth about the impact of the past on the present if we're going to live redemptively in the future



Race:

Western social construct that developed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to distinguish groups of people on the basis of selective physical characteristics such as skin color, facial features, and hair type.



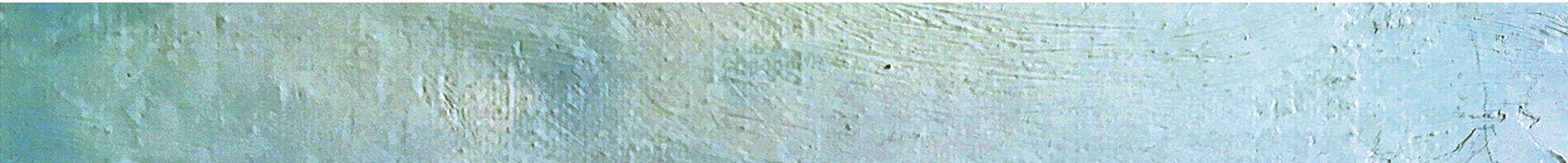
Race is a social construct. There is no biological basis for the superiority or inferiority of any human being based on the amount of melanin in her or his skin. The development of the idea of race required the intentional actions of people in the social, political, and religious spheres to decide that skin color determined who would be enslaved and who would be free. Over time Europeans, including Christians, wrote the laws and formed the habits that concentrated power in the hands of those they considered “white” while withholding equality from those they considered black.

Jemar Tisby



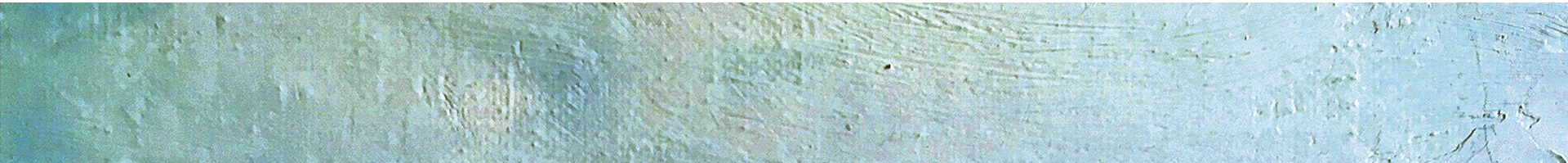
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness...The Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction, of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.”

Declaration of Independence



Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons.

US Constitution (Article 1, Section 2)



Racialization:

A society wherein race matters profoundly for differences in life experiences, life opportunities, and social relationships...a society that allocates differential economic, political, social, and even psychological rewards to groups along racial lines; lines that are socially constructed.

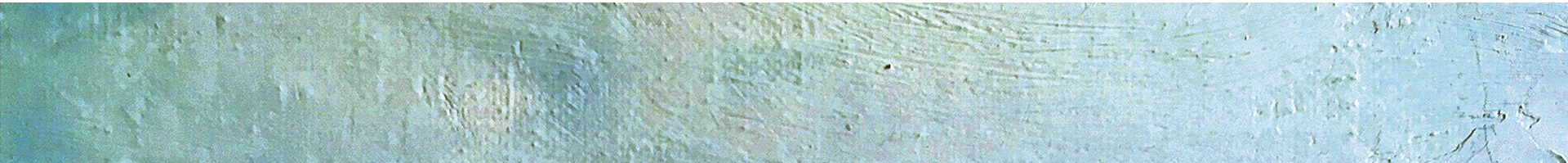


Upper-class, native-born Protestant whites have long sat at the cultural core of Indianapolis. As the city's "founding fathers" and their heirs, this group controlled the city's civic and economic life for the first half of the twentieth century. These individuals attended the same churches and social clubs, sat on the same philanthropic boards, and felt responsible for the direction of the city...Throughout the twentieth century, at least one-quarter to ne-half of the city's elite...belonged to either the Columbia Club or the Indianapolis Athletic Club...



They also shared religious orientations, mostly revolving around the most prestigious Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopalian, or Baptist churches. They used these formal and informal relationships to transform Indianapolis.

Sacred Circles, Public Squares





**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR
US TODAY?**

**Reclaiming our prophetic voice
starts with love**



**Repentance starts with personal
confession & lament**



Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, saying, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' Thus you witness against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.

Matthew 23:39-41



History and Scripture teaches us that there can be no reconciliation without repentance. There can be no repentance without confession. And there can be no confession with truth.

Jemar Tisby

