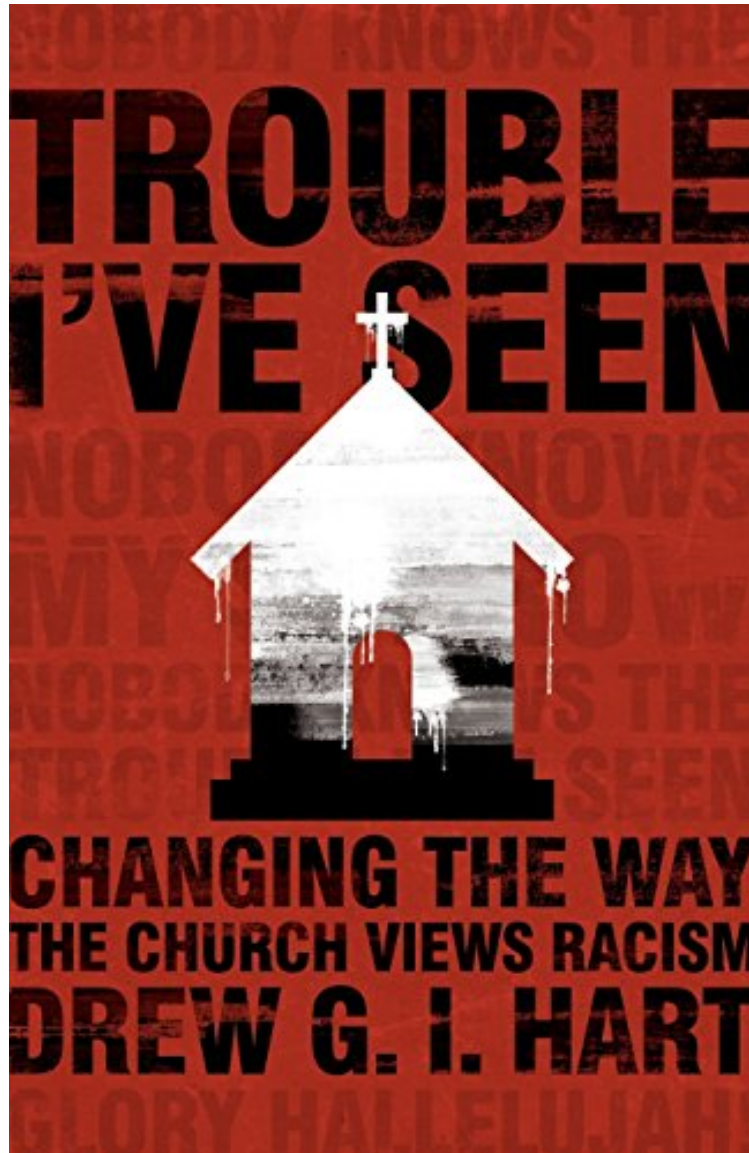


(Read free ebook) Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism

## Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism

*Drew G. I. Hart, Christena Cleveland (foreword)*  
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**Drew G. I. Hart, Christena Cleveland (foreword) : Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book! Drew Hart writes "truth in love" about ...By Marta Castillo Excellent book! Drew Hart writes "truth in love" about racism to white Christians in the U.S. using clear

examples of personal experiences and knowledge of the Bible, history, and current events. Jesus and his life and teachings are front and center. I will need to re-read to capture the layers. And buy a few more copies to share with friends.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Christians, this book is aimed at you

By Cliff

The message of this book is aimed at American Christians with a goal to make them (including me) aware of racism and their own culpability with it. From the inherent contradictions of those who claim colorblindness the author concludes, "... that it is not color that they are not seeing; rather, it is racism that is being missed." He continues, "Colorblind ideology is the twenty-first-century continuation of white Christian silence to racism." The author uses the language of a preacher in an effort to penetrate the self-confident (a.k.a self-righteous) understanding of white Christians. The author is a PhD candidate in biblical studies so he knows how to make his case based on the life and teachings of Jesus. This book is structured to "guide the readers through the challenges of racism for the church by confronting Christian frameworks for how racism operates and how it affects our lives." It does this by focusing on the hierarchy of power in social relationships that are so much a part of history and everyday life that they're often not recognized. First the book challenges the shortcomings of commonly held individualistic views on racism while offering a framework that helps identify the patterns and social realities of our radicalized society. Building on this the author continues through the book alternating between visiting biblical scripture, personal experiences from his own life, and sociological facts and figures taken from other well know publications such as *The Color of Wealth* by Robles and Leondar-Wright, *The New Jim Crow* by Alexander, *Slavery by Another Name* by Blackmon, and many others which are listed in footnoted bibliographies following chapter conclusions. One of the stories the author tells from his own life that I found interesting was his recall of his experiences from attending schools. From grade school through high school and college he experienced situations where he was part of a majority black student body and a high school where he was nearly the only student of color. Through all of this, the student situation where he felt the most racism was in a mostly white Christian College. Another lesson from history I found poignant was the fact that most white Christians today are willing to agree that their Christian ancestors were wrong when they defended slavery, Jim Crow laws, and were critical of Civil Rights demonstrations in the twentieth century. But these same white Christians confidently say there's no racism today. In other words blacks were right and whites were wrong for four hundred years, then suddenly now in the twenty-first century the whites are right and the blacks are wrong. There's a suggestion here that white people have historically been unable to see their own faults. Perhaps that's still true.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Needed book in the conversation on race today! Pick up a copy and dig in.

By Stephen Gonzalez

Troubles I Have Seen is a needed book in regards to dealing with racism in the church. This book takes a hard, grim look on racism today. Ill be honest, this book isnt for the faint of heart. You may not agree with everything said, but youll benefit greatly from reading this. In nine chapters he speaks of how sin has fleshed itself out in racism, white supremacy, and anti-black ideology, not just in America but in the church. And through it shows how to subvert these realities in the church. He goes back to the beginning of American history showing how from this countrys birth till now, white supremacy has infiltrated everything, even down to our theology. Even more, he shows how majority culture, even the church, has been blind to the mistreatment of people of color. And if we were honest, the white church today at large misses the full extent of how black folks are oppressed today. And the only way to see is to enter into the pain as Jesus did. I must highlight chapter 3 and chapter 9. It may not have been his intent, but chapter 3 reminded me how important it is to keep Jesus in his historical context. His re-telling of Jesus story put steel in my spine as I re-discovered a Savior who can identify with people of color today. Often the gospel is simplified down to justification ripping Jesus from the world he lived in. Drew shows how in Jesus, God is uniquely at work amongst the poor, marginalized, and unwanted and the way to serve is amongst them in humility. Chapter 9 gives 7 practices that will help communities deconstruct the white supremacy, racial hierarchy, and racial prejudice weve inherited. May Jesus give us the courage for the days ahead. I wish I could give more, every chapter is necessary but youll have to get the book.

What if racial reconciliation doesn't look like what you expected? The high-profile killings of young black men and women by white police officers, and the protests and violence that ensued, have convinced many white Christians to reexamine their intuitions when it comes to race and justice. In this provocative book, theologian and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, antiblack stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. Leading readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. What if all Christians listened to the stories of those on the racialized margins? How might the church be changed by the trouble we ve seen?

Key Features:-

Written by well-known theologian and blogger Drew Hart with foreword by Christena Cleveland

Hard-hitting analysis of racial injustice in the twenty-first century -Provides a call to action for Christians committed to racial justice and creative proposals for antiracist practices for churches

In this emotionally wrenching yet accessible book, Hart theologian and minister provides an overview of the systemic racism that nonwhite people, particularly African-Americans, face in the U.S. today, as well as the responses of Bible-

based Christian theology...A savvy and balanced blend of the topics that should serve as a useful introduction for Christians of all races who haven't yet understood the full scope of the problem and been inspired to enact change. Publisher's Weekly

In this raw, honest, truth-telling book, Drew Hart offers himself his life, his story, his tears, his fire in the most vulnerable way in the hopes of interrupting the vulgar disposability of black lives in our society. This book is a gift from the heart of one of the sharpest young theologians in this country. Hold it carefully, and allow it to transform you and our blood-stained streets. Drew Hart's *Trouble I've Seen* is a memoir in the tradition of the blues...it is theological blues...and it will move you to do something about the ugly residue of racism that still haunts us. Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution* Drew Hart masterfully cuts through all the platitudes and good intentions to reach the fleshy, beating heart of true justice. An unforgettable read, *Trouble I've Seen* deserves the church's full attention and considered action. It certainly challenged and changed me. --Rachel Held Evans, bestselling author of *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* and *Searching for Sunday* Reader, brace yourself! *Trouble I've Seen*, one of the best books I've encountered on race and Christian faith, will illuminate and challenge the assumptions that you don't even know you possess. I urge you to pay close attention to Drew Hart's eye-opening analysis. Christena Cleveland, author of *Disunity in Christ*, from foreword Drew Hart makes a courageous and compelling call to the church to get on the road to racial reconciliation and righteousness. He provides practical insights and deep theological reflections in this challenging and necessary resource. You won't be comfortable with this read, but you will be led into the deep waters of the social dilemma and reality of the race matrix. In the end, there is an opportunity for the church to be a bridge over these troubled waters. Efrem Smith, president and CEO of World Impact and author of *The Post-Black and Post-White Church* Drew Hart is an emerging voice in the one of the most difficult conversations facing the church today the reality and ongoing effects of white supremacy in American Christianity. He challenges the church to take a long, hard look at its complicity with the racism that still permeates our society and to be transformed in thought, word, and deed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. A provocative, powerful, and necessary book. --John R. Franke, theologian in residence, Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

*Trouble I've Seen* makes it plain: in repenting of white supremacy, we have nothing to lose and everything to be liberated from. Hart refuses to silence two gospel scandals that cannot be separated: that in Christ, Pharaoh's armies are invited into the Promised Land, but the only way in is through the waters, where Pharaoh's supremacy and his chariots are drown-ded. This is the saving solidarity of Christ's cross. Jarrod McKenna, award-winning peace activist and cofounder of First Home Project

In a critical moment of American history, Drew Hart has given us a book that is vital for the church. *Trouble I've Seen* captures the complexity of race in its systemic and personal consequences and points us to why race should be central to any Christian's life as a follower of Jesus. It is a book for people who are just beginning this journey and for those of us who need encouragement along the way. --Brian Bantum, associate professor of theology, Seattle Pacific University and Seminary

From the Back Cover

What if racial reconciliation doesn't look like what you expected? The high-profile killings of young black men and women by white police officers, and the protests and violence that ensued, have convinced many white Christians to reexamine their intuitions when it comes to race and justice. In this provocative book, theologian and blogger Drew G. I. Hart places police brutality, mass incarceration, anti-black stereotypes, poverty, and everyday acts of racism within the larger framework of white supremacy. He argues that white Christians have repeatedly gotten it wrong about race because dominant culture and white privilege have so thoroughly shaped their assumptions. He also challenges black Christians about neglecting the most vulnerable in their own communities. Leading readers toward Jesus, Hart offers concrete practices for churches that seek solidarity with the oppressed and are committed to racial justice. What if all Christians listened to the stories of those on the racialized margins? How might the church be changed by the trouble they've seen? "This book is a gift from the heart of one of the sharpest young theologians in the United States. Hold it carefully, and allow it to transform you--and our blood-stained streets."--Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution*

About the Author

Drew G. I. Hart is a blogger, PhD candidate in theology and ethics, and activist. His blog, *Taking Jesus Seriously*, is hosted by the Christian Century, and he speaks regularly at churches, universities, and seminaries. He and his family live in Philadelphia.