

Becoming Antiracist: Part 2

Part 1: Who are we, and how do we fit in?

Part 2: How has our personal and collective histories have shaped the situation we are now in?

Part 3: How should we, as Christians, respond to this situation?

Part 4: Making our personal and group plan for becoming Anti-Racist

Last week

- We defined:
 - Prejudice- both personal and institutional
 - Dominant culture
 - Subordinate culture
 - White privilege
 - Antiracism

This week we will discuss how our world, national, and personal histories impact our views and actions.

Our history goes everywhere with us and helps define who we are.

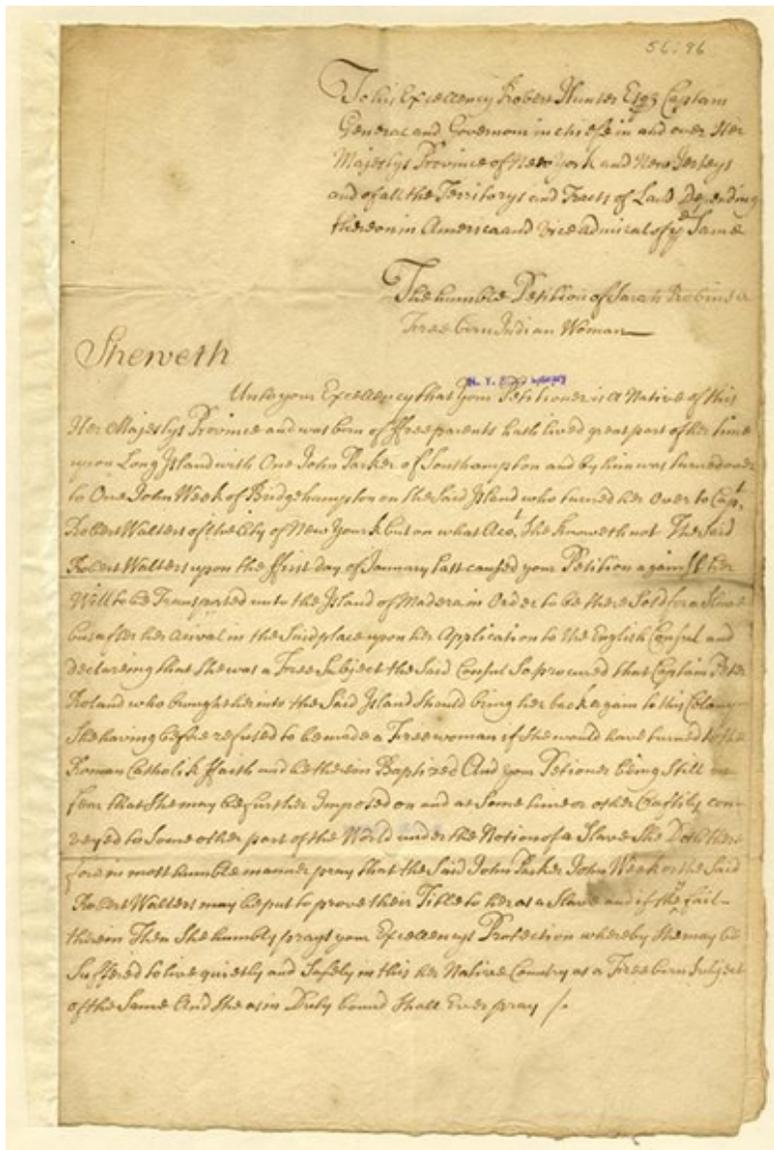
Our personal history is written within the context of the rest of the history of the world and our country.

To understand who we are, and we need to back up and think about where we came from.



WE CANNOT IGNORE OUR HISTORY





We like to think that our country was founded on the principles of “**liberty and justice for all.**”

But, in reality, it was founded by Europeans who forcibly took land from the indigenous peoples, enslaved some of them, decimated their populations with disease, and imported additional slave labor from Africa for economic gain!

1711 Petition of Sarah Robins, a "free born Indian woman", to Governor Robert Hunter, protesting her threat of enslavement for refusal to convert to Christianity.

Liberty and justice for all -- is a fine goal, but it is one we have not yet achieved.

Examples of institutionalized prejudice

Slaves were first brought to what is now the United States in 1619, one year BEFORE the pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. They had been in South America and the Caribbean for more than 100 years before that.

The Constitution approved slavery -- as evidenced by the provision that a slave counted as only 3/5 of a person

Though slavery is now illegal in every country of the world, in 2019 there were an estimated 40 million enslaved people, most of them in Asia, and 61% of them children.

In 1863 President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the slaves, but there were no provisions made to assist them in making a new life.

After the Civil War ended, and reconstruction was abandoned, came Jim Crow Laws.

1877 – The Jim Crow laws



Jim Crow was more than a series of rigid anti-black laws. It was a way of life. Under Jim Crow, African Americans were relegated to the status of second class citizens. Jim Crow represented the legitimization of anti-black racism. Many Christian ministers and theologians taught that whites were the “Chosen People,” blacks were cursed to be servants, and God supported racial segregation.

Some less well-known dates in history:

1860 Indian boarding schools began. The goal was to assimilate the Indian population into the dominant culture

1893 Laws were passed that required mandatory education for indigenous youth. The law was enforced by forcefully removing children from their families and homes and sending them to boarding schools. If parents resisted their food rations were withheld. Female students were taught to cook, clean and sew, and males were taught to be farmers and blacksmiths. No one was given the education needed to better their lot in life.

1978 Native American families were finally granted the right to choose the type education their children received and to keep them on the reservation.

1965 – Voting Rights Act was passed, finally enforcing the 15th amendment, 95 years after its passage

2013 – Ruling by US Supreme court effectively gutted voting rights act, allowing the states to impose new barriers to voting without federal oversight

We are still a mostly segregated society, with 11 am Sunday morning being possibly the most segregated hour of the week.

Many of those of the subdominant culture still have to overcome obstacles to be able to vote.

Other miscellaneous facts

The United States has the highest per capita incarceration rate of any nation in the world.

In the USA a black person is 5 times more likely to be stopped by police *for no reason* than a white person.

Only 5% of illicit drug users in the country are Black, but 29% of those arrested are Black and 33% of those incarcerated are Black.

African Americans make up 40% of the prison population while accounting for only 16% of the total population.

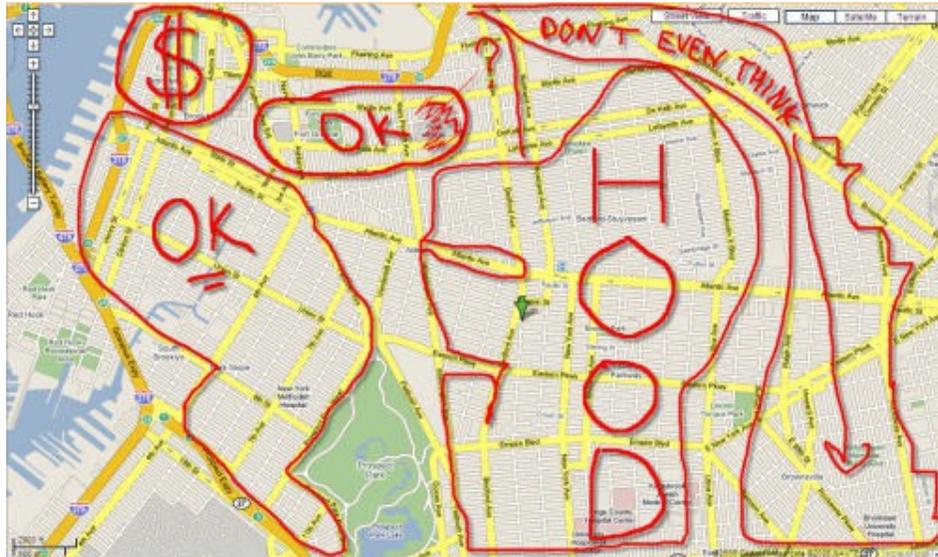
The average White family is 41 times as wealthy as the average Black family.

Some reasons:

After WWII the GI Bill to gave former servicemen money to pursue furthering their educations or buying a home. Sure, most of us know about that. But did you realize that most black soldiers were denied that right? Blacks had to get their superior officer's and the Veteran's Administration's endorsements to apply for the money. Most Black soldiers were denied. Many never applied, knowing assistance would likely be denied. This meant home ownership which might have built equity for people of color was denied them. They remained poorer than their white peers.



The same thing took place with loans for housing. Loans were unavailable to Blacks. Banks universally refused to allow Black people to get mortgages, especially for homes in predominately white neighborhoods. There was “red-lining,” too. Neighborhoods for blacks were outlined in red, and blacks were not allowed to buy property outside those lines.



Here in New Mexico, we were not immune to the effects of racism. While only 2.7% of the population of New Mexico are Black, laws discriminating against them and other people of color have long been part of our history, too.

The following excerpts are from an article about Albuquerque in the Santa Fe New Mexican on Nov. 15, 2020 by Larry Barker

...about 85 percent of the city was racially restricted. It was to the benefit of whites only, every single part of the city — northeast, northwest, southeast, southwest...” Beginning in the 1920s and continuing for another 30 years, scores of newly developed neighborhoods, from the West Mesa to the Sandia foothills, were designated “whites” only.

Flagrant racial segregation surged nationwide after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1926 that the use of racially restrictive real estate contracts was lawful.

Even cemeteries were segregated. According to records filed with the Bernalillo County Clerk, in the 1930s and 1940s, Sunset Memorial Park sold cemetery plots only for “the burial of the human dead of the white race.”

Blacks and Asians were not the only targets. In 1932, property deed covenants in northwest Albuquerque’s Navajo Addition excluded Mexicans and those of Spanish descent.

Our personal histories are superimposed on this national, state, and local history. We have been swimming in a pot of systemic racism for our entire lives.

How does your personal history impact your views and actions on prejudice, racism, and other aspects of social justice?

Break out here

How does it contribute to White Privilege?

What can we do?

What should we be doing?

What does our faith demand of us?

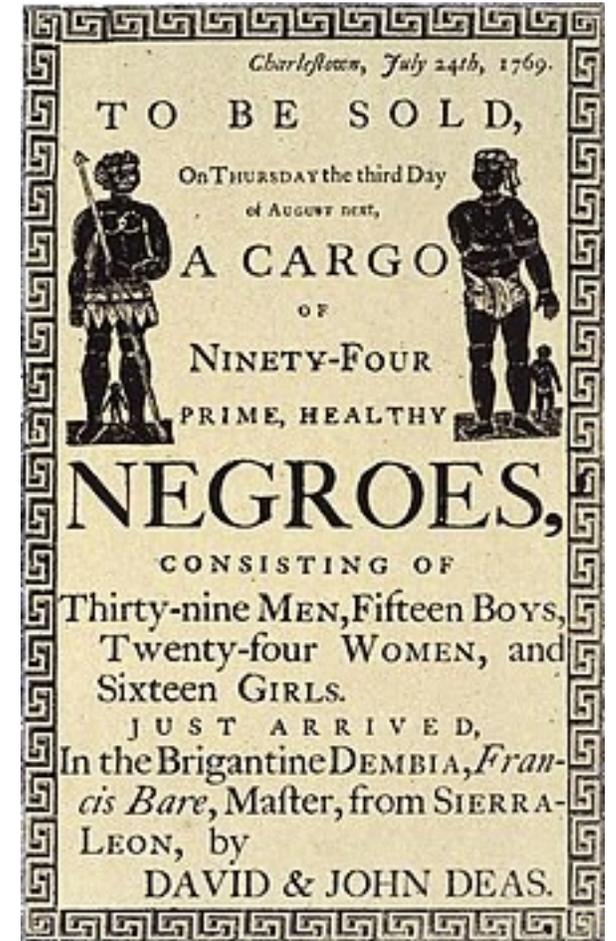
Now, as we close in prayer let us consider how racism has affect our lives and the lives of those around us.

The Portuguese were the first to engage in slave trade, but as several other countries were also busy trying to build worldwide empires, and their colonies needed laborers, the slave trade was wide-spread. The Dutch, French, Spanish, Danish, and British were also actively involved.



In a span of 400 years during the 17th and 18th centuries it is estimated that 12-12.8 million slaves were shipped across the Atlantic. About 30% of these died along the way.

These slaves were purchased mainly in central and west Africa from Africans who captured them and sold them to the traders.



Charleston, July 24th, 1769.

TO BE SOLD,
On THURSDAY the third Day
of AUGUST next,
A CARGO
OF
NINETY-FOUR
PRIME, HEALTHY
NEGROES,
CONSISTING OF
Thirty-nine MEN, Fifteen BOYS,
Twenty-four WOMEN, and
Sixteen GIRLS.
JUST ARRIVED,
In the Brigantine *DEMBIA*, *Francis Bare*, Master, from SIERRA-
LEON, by
DAVID & JOHN DEAS.

The image is a historical advertisement for the sale of enslaved people. It features a decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern. At the top, it is dated 'Charleston, July 24th, 1769.' The main text is centered and reads: 'TO BE SOLD, On THURSDAY the third Day of AUGUST next, A CARGO OF NINETY-FOUR PRIME, HEALTHY NEGROES, CONSISTING OF Thirty-nine MEN, Fifteen BOYS, Twenty-four WOMEN, and Sixteen GIRLS. JUST ARRIVED, In the Brigantine DEMBIA, Francis Bare, Master, from SIERRA-LEON, by DAVID & JOHN DEAS.' On either side of the central text are two illustrations of enslaved men. The man on the left is standing, wearing a loincloth and holding a staff. The man on the right is also standing, wearing a loincloth, and has a small child standing next to him.

A brief history of slavery

- Slavery has been around pretty much forever.
- The first mention of slavery in the Bible is in Genesis – Hagar was Elizabeth's slave
- Slavery had its beginnings as soon as there were enough people for a stratified society, just after the time of hunters and gatherers dating back to around 3500 BC
- Although slavery is no longer legal anywhere in the world, in the 21st century it generates more than \$150 billion in annual profits.
- In 2019 there were an estimated 40 million enslaved people, most of them in Asia, and 61% of them children.

Let's review some important dates in our history:

- 1492 – Columbus landed in the West Indies believing he had found India
- 1607 – The Jamestown Colony was formed
- 1619 – The first African slaves arrived in North America
- 1620 – The pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock
- 1862 – The Homestead Act was passed – It excluded blacks, Asians, Mexicans
- 1863 – The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves;
- 1865 – The end of the Civil War brought reconstruction, that did little to help the freed slaves prosper.