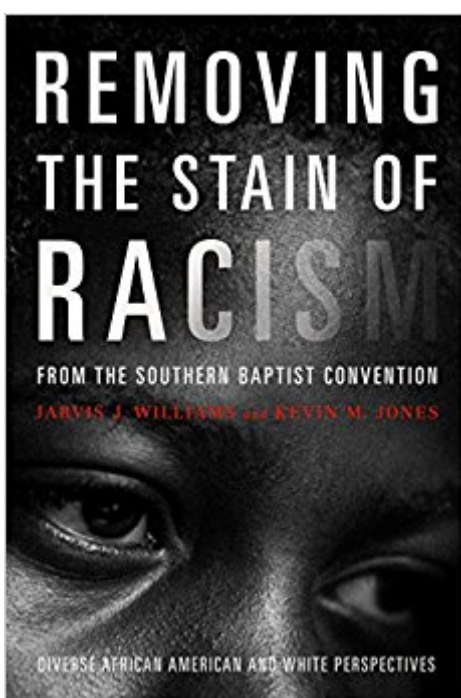


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# Removing The Stain Of Racism From The Southern Baptist Convention: Diverse African American And White Perspectives



## Synopsis

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has a historical stain. The SBC once affirmed slavery and openly opposed and condemned abolitionists. Even though the convention repented of this sin publicly, a profound divide between the white majority and the black and brown minority still exists for many churches. This stain is more than historical fact; it prohibits Southern Baptist churches from embracing the one new man in Christ promised in Ephesians 2:11-22 and from participating in the new song of the saints from every tongue, tribe, people, and nation in Revelation 5:9. The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ commands all his followers to do our part in removing racism from our midst. Removing the Stain of Racism from the Southern Baptist Convention is a powerful and practical call to sacrifice, humility, and perseverance—along with a relentless commitment to Christian unity—for the sake of the gospel and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Contributors to this work can seldom avoid referencing their personal stories, evidencing the extent to which the book reveals the souls of the authors. Rest assured, the chapters will also touch the souls of the readers. Southern Baptists have needed this book for a long time. "Paul H. Chitwood, Kentucky Baptist Convention "Removing the Stain of Racism is not only essential reading for all who are committed to racial reconciliation in the SBC, but is a call to genuine repentance and gospel-centered living for Christ-followers everywhere. Readers should reflect with care, doing so with an open Bible along with a prepared heart, recognizing the need for continued faithfulness, further illumination, and enhanced understanding." David S. Dockery,

Trinity International University/Trinity Evangelical Divinity School "A true gift to the church—whether Southern Baptist or any other branch of the Christian faith—this is a must read for those serious about removing the deep stain of racism." Michael O. Emerson, North Park University "Although the focus is on the SBC, the writers bring this voice to the church of Jesus Christ in general. I applaud the expertise and courage of each contributor." Bruce L. Fields, Trinity International University/Trinity Evangelical Divinity School "Yes, racism is alive and at work in the SBC. But so is Jesus. This work deals honestly with the former and points us all to the hope inherent in the latter. Southern Baptists of every shade ought to take up and read!" Steven Harris, The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention "Williams and Jones offer gospel-saturated biblical insights on how we can see Christ purge not only our convention but his global bride from every sinful implication of racism." D.A. Horton, Reach Fellowship, North Long Beach, CA "As a pastor in a multi-ethnic community and as a parent in a multi-racial household, my prayer is that God will use this book in such a way that a far more wondrous kaleidoscope of colors and cultures will mark the future of the SBC." Timothy Paul Jones, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary "This book makes a clarion call to contemporary Southern Baptist Christians and evangelical churches in America to transcend the barriers of race, ethnicity, ideology, and cultural traditions for the sake of Christ, for the sake of the gospel, and for the sake of the lost—to the majestic glory and fame of the eternal and immortal Triune God." Celucien L. Joseph, Indian River State College "It is heartening to see a volume like this one, which is brimming with judicious reflections and compelling exhortations on how we can break down the 'dividing walls of hostility' that still separate Baptists." Thomas S. Kidd, Baylor University "This honest, unveiling confrontation of the SBC's past is the foundation needed to bring about meaningful change in the present, and establish a renewed SBC in the future." Alex Medina, Vox Media "The Southern Baptist Convention of the year 2050 will be truly multiethnic, or it will be dead. Which of these two paths is chosen will depend on how much gospel courage this generation will have, and on how much we believe the inerrant Bible we preach. May God use *Removing the Stain* to help us!" Russell D. Moore, The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention "This powerful book is written for Southern Baptists, but should be read by all American believers. . . . Its great strength is to root the hope of racial reconciliation in the promise of the gospel." Mark Noll, University of Notre Dame "The aim of this book isn't lament, but lasting change. But the pathway to lasting change is paved with stones of discomfort that come from honest dialogue. I'm eager to see how the Lord uses this in the life of pastors, churches,



Removing the Stain of Racism from the Southern Baptist Convention is all at once a needed, insightful, heartbreaking, and hopeful book that every Southern Baptist should read. Every SBC member needs to engage the biblical and historical teachings and exhortations laid out from the foreword to the appendices. All of the contributors expertly explain and address their points, with Jarvis J. Williams' chapter still managing to stand out in scholarship, argumentation, and obvious passion to see God glorified through racial reconciliation in the SBC. If you're a pastor, I encourage you to go through whatever proper channels you need to make room in your church budget to buy at least one copy for every household represented in the congregation you serve. May God use this book to bring about major strides in racial reconciliation in the SBC!

Awesome insights. I Love the diversity of contributors.

The release of "Removing the Stain of Racism from the Southern Baptist Convention," co-edited by Southern Seminary professor Jarvis J. Williams and Boyce College professor Kevin M. Jones, marks an encouraging sign in our denomination's overdue progress. Consider the significance of the book being published by official SBC imprint B&H, whose former name Broadman & Holman honored SBT's co-founders and slaveholders John A. Broadus and Basil Manly Jr. Prompted by SBT's President R. Albert Mohler Jr.'s acknowledgement of the stain of racism in his spring 2015 convocation address, Williams and Jones gathered eight additional African-American leaders and three white SBC statesmen to offer insight on improving racial unity in the denomination in areas ranging from preaching, leadership, education, and publishing. "The Southern Baptist Convention has a big, dark, historical stain on it: racism," Williams and Jones write in the preface. "The gospel of Jesus Christ requires and demands all Southern Baptists to do their parts to erase this stain from the SBC or at least to make the stain less apparent. This act requires a relentless obedience to Christian unity." The opening contribution by Mohler reflects on how the SBC was "conceived in sin" because of its founders' support of slavery and a heresy of racial superiority. "Diversity is not an accident or a problem; it is a sign of God's providence and promise," he writes. "If the church gets it wrong, it is not just getting race and ethnic difference wrong. It is getting the gospel wrong." Boyce College Dean Matthew J. Hall follows Mohler's contribution by examining the historical causes of the stain of racism due to the racial hierarchy and hypocrisy of white Baptist leaders through the founding of America, the Civil War, and the Civil Rights movement. Hall contends today's Baptists

should allow the ghosts of our racists forebears to haunt us to be reminded of the abiding susceptibility to pride and hatred. The heart of the book rests in Williams' lengthy chapter on a biblical vision of racial unity in the SBC. A New Testament professor at SBTS, Williams surveys racial issues in the early church and analyzes how the Scripture offers a model for racial reconciliation, as the gospel has both vertical and horizontal implications. The book also features stellar contributions from Kevin L. Smith on addressing racial unity from the pulpit, Mark A. Croston Sr. on the importance of denominational leadership to hire minorities, and Kevin M. Jones on improving Christian education to include more ethnically diverse reading and curriculum. "Removing the Stain" is an historic achievement, not merely for its presence and symbolism, but because applying its wisdom could alter the future of the SBC.

Jarvis Williams and Kevin Jones have given the Church -- particularly the Southern Baptists in this case (though certainly not limited to them) -- a real gift in their new book, *Removing the Stain of Racism from the Southern Baptist Convention: Diverse African American and White Perspectives* from B&H Publishers. I really can't speak too highly of this book, of the various essays that compose it, and of the resources for local congregations (and even Christian colleges) in opening the dialog about racism in the Body and how we can remove its stain from the Bride of Christ's clothing. The Southern Baptist Convention (like the Methodists) have a history wrapped in that sinful garb of racism. It was given birth through confrontations in the Church over the place of slavery. The SBC certainly confessed of that sin in 1995, but nothing much has been done by way of the hard work of reconciliation since that confession. That's precisely why Williams and Jones have given us this collection. *Removing the Stain of Racism* contains a number of essays in conversation with one another -- "Diverse African American and White" authors -- that help to develop the book's overall point: That Paul's vision in Ephesians 2.11-12 cannot be realized until we Christians do this hard work of racial reconciliation. Some of those voices are more important than others, I think: Jarvis Williams' and Terry Davis' chapters really cannot be missed! But its hopeful "Postscript" says it all: This stain can be removed. There are some closing resources to this book -- the sample syllabus is a must for college religion profs! -- that make it a valuable resource in a number of contexts. Don't miss this book! It's a hard read, but its prophetic call cannot be ignored: The hard work of racial reconciliation still lies in front of the Church. \_\_\_\_\_ I received a free copy of this book from B&H Publishing in exchange for my honest review here.

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