

Dismantling cultural pre- suppositions that hinder reconciliation and justice

Stupid is as stupid does!



Varieties in Cultural Thinking

We didn't know there was anything to think about.

- Majority culture doesn't know it needs to think culturally.
- Majority culture doesn't always realize that culture affects our theological thinking.
- Some do know, and it is racist, on purpose.




Assumptions of the Elite

- Manifest Destiny or entitlement
- Being an urban gentrifier means I am about social involvement.
- Mercy tourism, or drive by mercy suffices for social justice.
- Reconciliation is a joint service, a black speaker, a movie, an idea but not a lifestyle pursuit.



The way it is, or the way it looks?

- Is the PCA “ a bastion of white privilege?”
- You are not my demographic target, so I have the option not to pursue you.
[Benign neglect]
- If it is not racist in intent but racial in effect, is it racist?
- Is being blind to the people we have not included say anything about the spiritual quality of our lives, or our theology?



Pessimism as an underlying assumption.

- Problems are intractable.
- Other side won't change, no matter what we do nothing will change.
- Justice will never be satisfied.
- Powerful use structure and the law to preserve their power.



Blame & Shame game

- Europeans think “legally” to prevent and deal with conflict.
- There is always someone to blame, and if you are to blame you are responsible, and you should pay.
- Resist acceptance of blame, avoid conversations and feelings leading to such.
- Resistant to corporate responsibility
- Legality trumps humanity.



Group thinking

- Solidarity with the community versus individualism.
- You represent a community whether you like it or not.
- Legalistic individualism doesn't relieve you of taking a stand, or taking a step.



Theological Contortions

- Evangelism can be refused if you are not the right target.
- Evangelism can be pursued without regard to your physical need.
- Evangelism can be pursued without bringing you into the Body.
- Evangelism can be successful without serving your culture.



Tools of the Trade

- We start with love [2 Cor 5]
- We start with a new look at people
- We have this mandate from God
- We have this act of Jesus [Eph 2]
- We have a radical identity which produces a radical ability [1 Cor 9]
- We can raise a harvest [James 3:18]



The Power of Love

- Love is the assertive force in reconciliation.
- Love is demonstrated by a deeply honest humility in regard to justice and reconciliation.
- Reciprocal love is demonstrated by forgiveness.
- Love cannot deny the human condition.