



Dr. Robin DiAngelo

Deconstructing White Privilege

Dr. Robin DiAngelo is a social scientist and anti-racism educator and the author of *What Does It Mean to Be White? Developing White Racial Literacy*. Director of equity for Sounds Generation in the Seattle, Washington, area, Dr. DiAngelo's previous book (with Özlem Sensoy), *Is Everyone Really Equal: An Introduction to Social Justice Education*, received the Critics' Choice Award by the American Educational Studies Association. Her work on white fragility has appeared in *Alternet*, *Salon.com*, *NPR*, *Colorlines*, *Huffington Post*, and the *Good Men Project*.

Dr. Robin DiAngelo is transparent about white privilege couched in explicit and implicit biases in the video *Deconstructing White Privilege*, the first in a series of *Vital Conversations on Race, Culture, and Justice*.

Dr. DiAngelo describes the most obvious and explicit aspects of racism and white privilege, while going beyond the surface of racism. Her video serves as a foundation on understanding racism and white privilege for the remaining six videos in the *Vital Conversations* series.

Video

Watch *Deconstructing White Privilege*, <http://gcorr.org/vital-conversations-racism-dr-robin-diangelo> (21:54).

Discussion Questions

1. What ideas presented by Dr. DiAngelo stood out for you? How does she describe her experience as one who recognizes herself as a white person, especially when it comes to interacting with people of color?
2. How does denying the existence of racism and white privilege perpetuate racial inequality and unequal outcomes? What are explicit and implicit biases? Give some examples from the video along with some of your own.
3. How can identifying the pillars—individualism, universalism, internalized superiority, good/bad binary, segregation, and miseducation—help in challenging racism? What are the next steps?
4. Dr. DiAngelo says we are not “operating in the spiritual realm” when it comes to racial issues? Is this true for Christians, and what does that mean concerning racism and justice both theologically and biblically? Based on our Christian experiences and the Bible, how can we begin to act against inequity and racism?

Closing Prayer in Unison

Light a candle as a reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence.

Most High God, You urge us to advocate for justice for the widowed and the orphaned. For our contemporary times, one form of oppression is against people of color through white privilege. Open our eyes to the impact racism has on the widowed and the orphaned . . . the African-American woman brutalized by the police . . . the Mexican-American student being told derisively to go back to Mexico. Use us to face white privilege and dismantle racism. Amen.

Session 2: Deconstructing White Privilege

The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

~ Proverbs 29:13 (AMP)

Check-in

Ask about everyone's week, along with prayer requests for joys and sorrows.

Open with Prayer

Introduction to *Deconstructing White Privilege* Video

All of us must seek the light of God and the light of truth in recognizing oppression. We begin to do so in this session, which focuses on the oppressive behavior that is born out of white privilege.