

## Religion and Racism in the United States

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### INTRODUCTION

Religion, particularly Christianity, is a part of many Americans' identity. Race is also a large part of their identities. Within the social context of the Black Lives Matter movement, we explore the intersections between Christianity and racial tensions in the United States.

### QUESTIONS

- How do racial interactions differ WITHIN churches and OUTSIDE of churches?
- How have American Christian groups contributed to systematic racism?
- How have American Christian groups combatted systematic racism?

### RESEARCH

Through the literary analysis of eight scholarly writings, we sought to answer our research questions and were able to form hypothesis based on the evidence provided by the authors. From there, we formulated ideas on what we think can and should change in the relationship between religion and race relations.

### CONCLUSION

- Lack of social interaction both within and outside of churches has led to a lack of knowledge on racial issues in America.
- Lack of knowledge or ignorance of issues has led to little effort from predominantly white churches to fight for Black rights
- Deliberately ignoring the subject of racial issues that need to be addressed

### FINDINGS

- “The vast majority of evangelical congregations remain racially segregated yet claim or attempt to pursue racial diversity”- **Barron, 2016**
- “Christians are consistently more likely than whites who are religiously unaffiliated to deny the existence of structural racism” - **Jones, 2020**
- “These years of entrenched segregation in society and in the Christian Church in America left the Black church as the institution leading the fight against discrimination and injustice”- **Brown, 2019**
- White Christian churches have not just been complacent or complicit in failing to address racism; rather, as the dominant cultural power in the U.S., they have been responsible for constructing and sustaining a project to protect white supremacy. **Jones, 2020**