

Prompted by the conversation at the pulpit between Tom Stocks and David Bailey: Books to read (the suggestions on each list come from friends of mine-- of OURS--within the BABC community)

List #1--from David Bailey

**Here are a few links** of helpful & short online resources that I've done:

- [10-minute Q Talk: Implicit Racial Bias](#)
- [Article: Questions You've Always Wanted to Ask About Race](#)

**Here are a few books:**

I compiled the book list according to a few major subject matters that would probably be important to the BABC Community. I recommend that you read the books in the order that I've listed within the subject matter because they relatively build on each other. It's fine to pick one book from each subject matter, but within the subject matter, I recommend reading it in sequence.

**Christian Theology & History.** These books will help you get a theological & historical multiethnic perspective on Christianity in America.

1. [The Next Evangelicalism](#)

2. [The Color of Christ](#)

- This book wasn't written by a person of color, but the authors are historians that are giving first hand accounts of people of colors perspectives on Christianity. These historians have done the work to share a holistic perspective race and the Christian religion from original sources of various ethnic groups in America. This is a very unique book and will

3. [Forgive Us](#)

**Race Related Sociology.** These books will help you understand some of the sociology & history of the African-American Community and other Ethnic Groups in America. I leaned to the African-American side because a lot of these conversations have been triggered because of the African-American experience. If you want recommendations on other ethnic groups in America, I can provide some of those also.

1. [Disintegration](#), by Eugene Robinson

2. [Ethnic America](#), by Thomas Sowell

- This is an excellent book that was written in 1981, so it's out of print, but you can get anywhere. This book provides you with a survey of the contributions of 9 Ethnic Groups that have made America a great country.

3. [Warmth of Other Suns](#)

- This is a wonderful historic fiction of "The Great Migration". This is a part of History that the majority of us have probably never been taught before.

**Race Related Criminal Justice System.** A lot of suburban/middle-class and above people (white, black, and other people of color) might not understand why a poor black community might not trust the criminal justice system (particularly police) to the point they might riot. I (nor the authors of these books) do not justify rioting, but reading these books, will help you to understand why there is a distrust for our current system for justice with poor brothers and sisters and especially black and brown brothers and sisters.

1. [Just Mercy](#)

2. [The New Jim Crow](#)

A lot of times in criminal justice conversations, there are arguments for or against systemic injustice and personal responsibility. I don't believe the conversation is either/or, but rather I see it as both/and. ... *Disintegration* will help you understand some of the sociology behind the personal responsibility conversation. In *Ethnic America* and in *Warmth of Other Suns* you will see how poor ethnic groups and individuals developed the kind of character needed to overcome the common obstacles and challenges of poverty. *Just Mercy* and *The New Jim Crow* are well-documented books that will help you to understand how the justice system is not fair for ALL people.

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List #2

This specific list was compiled from very current works in an effort to emphasize that such issues are not just a part of past history, but are extremely important today. Read the first two books first, for these give a context within which to understand and appreciate what you will find in any of the other books.

[Waking Up White: and Finding Myself in the Story of Race](#), by Debby Irving, 2014

[All God's Dangers: The Life of Nate Shaw](#), by Theodore Rosengarten, 2000

[Mirror to America: The Autobiography of John Hope Franklin](#), by John Hope Franklin, 2005

[The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#), by Isabel Wilkerson, 2011

[Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters' First 100 Years](#), by Sarah and Elizabeth Delaney  
with Amy Hill Hearth, 1994

[We Are Who We Say We Are](#), by Mary Francis Berry, 2015

[The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother](#) (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition), by James  
McBride, 2006

[Slaves in the Family](#), by Edward Ball, (1999--but look for the newly edited 2014 version)

[The Grace of Silence: A Memoir](#), by Michele Norris, 2009

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List #3

[The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration](#), by Isabel Wilkerson, 2011  
>>books by Walter Mosley (writer of mystery novels set within an African-American community)

( <http://www.waltermosley.com/books/> )

[Devil in a Blue Dress](#), 1990; and other novels featuring the character Easy Rollins

[The Long Fall](#), 2009. and other novels featuring the character Leonid McGill

[Black Heroes of the 20th Century](#), edited by Jessie Carney Smith, 1998

[True to Our Native Land: An African-American New Testament Commentary](#),  
Brian K. Blount, General Editor, 2007