

## FOREWORD

Racism is alive and well in the United States. It is not as blatant as it used to be. It's not as obvious as it

used to be. It's not as public as it used to be. But it nonetheless is! Laws may prevent discrimination in the

public square, but no law can change a person's heart.

Unfortunately, in the long struggle to overcome racism and bigotry, the church has been as much a part

of the problem as it has been part of the solution. The A.M.E. church and many other African-American

denominations exist as a result of flawed white theology and practice. These churches were established

because Black people were not accepted as equal within the white churches. This divide, which goes all the

way back to slavery continues to exist today. Black and white churches are only miles apart geographically,

but are hundreds of miles apart spiritually.

Talking about race is most difficult for us in the white community. We are afraid of saying the wrong

thing so we tend to be polite and seldom get to the real issues that divide us. But the time has come for

honest, biblically rooted discussion. Robert Upton provides us with a book that will help us talk and

ultimately change. This is the most remarkable book I have ever seen dealing with racism and bigotry

because it is filled with questions. There are questions that we all must face—black and white together.

Many of them are profoundly uncomfortable. This is a book rooted in the ancient Rabbinical teaching

method—keep asking questions. The time has come for us to begin addressing these questions and

answering them before God.

**Dr. Ed Dobson, Senior Pastor**

**Calvary Church**

**Grand Rapids, Michigan**

**Dr. Ed Dobson is the author of the following books:**

Finding God in the Face of Evil

Mastering Ministry

Blinded by Might  
Power

The Seduction of

The End

Simplicity

Starting A Seeker Sensitive Service