

# The Color of Compromise

Week 4 | Chapter 3

- I. Reflections on Chapter 3
  - A. You could say that this chapter is about the hypocrisy of America in calling for freedom while enslaving, but it goes deeper into how the church wrestled with the question of Race in a time of spiritual renewal as well.
  - B. The Great Awakening is not a deep part of German Lutheran heritage. Tisby notes the practices of “Full throated singing, emotional expressiveness and physical movement had cultural resonance with people of African descent. Christianity also held out the hope of Freedom.” (p. 45) This moment was hopeful that Spiritual equality might lead to emancipation – but that didn’t materialize. Tisby continues, “The messages preached to black Christians leaned heavily toward messages on obedience.” (p. 45). How did, and do, those who control message of Jesus shape it to fit their own ends? See the discussions of Whitefield and Edwards.
  - C. “Many other Christians did not see anything in the Bible that forbade slavery. In fact, the Scriptures seemed to accept slavery as an established reality. Instead, white Christians believed that the Bible merely regulated slavery in order to mitigate its most brutal abuses.” (p. 51). In some ways, people seemed to absolve themselves of the terror of slavery by their benevolent or paternalistic attitudes, rationalizing the continued existence of slavery as a Spiritual good. Are there places in which we tolerate terrible things for the sake of “spiritual good” or is that a relic of history?
  - D. The black church was created because of a refusal to countenance any type of Christianity that sanctioned their enslavement.
- II. Bible Reflections on Ch. 3
  - A. Amos 5:24 – what insights do we have about the importance of Justice in the kingdom of God? How does that affect our approach to racial justice?
  - B. Isaiah 1:17 – what insight is there for us about doing right by defending others? How does that affect our approach to racial justice?
- III. Prayer