

Chapter 5: Defending Slavery at the Onset of the Civil War

1. “The war decisively ended slavery, but the fighting did not end. The bullets of competing biblical interpretations continued to ricochet across the country”p.70 As well as slavery what other biblical interperatations can people use to codemn other people?

2.“The church, which prioritizes the love of God and the love of neighbor, capitulated to the status quo by permitting the lifetime bondage of human persons based on skin color” p.72

- Are there any moments in your life where you experienced or saw rash judgements based on race or skin color?
- How can we in these moments show God’s love?

3. Main Events

Fugitive Slave Act 1850- Eventhough certain territories allowed to free slaves. Slaves fleeing to these free states were required to be sent back

- Kansas-Nebraska Act 1854: These new territories had to decide for themselves if they were going to permit salvery. Much bloodshed during this time because each side wanted to attack the other.

- Dred Scott decision 1857: A man born into slavery in Virginia. He wants to buy his wife and daughter and his freedom. The supreme court ruled seven to two against him
- Reasons given by Judge Roger Taney
 - “Black people were of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associate with the white race” p.73
 - “He also goes on to say that the Constitution did not have Black people in mind when it outlined the rights and duties of citizens” p.73

- John Brown’s raid 1859: A abolitionist disgusted by the expansion of slavery lead a raid. This raid was formed of black and white men. They were able to raid the federal

armory. Despite this 2 days later a force led by Robert E. Lee killed most of their men. Once they captured Brown. He was hung for his actions.

➤ Election of Abraham Lincoln 1860:

Abraham Lincoln a huge historical figure in American history. Known for freeing the slaves. People sometimes fail to realize his intentions were not to abolish slavery but to limit slavery's expansion.

- Did you know this? How does this make you feel?
- All of these events of injustice display the belief that black people lack humanity

4. 3 main denominations views on Slavery

Methodists:

- John Wesley Founder found slavery appalling
- Originally the baptists opposed slavery in 1784
- 1808 there was a conference held on the matter of slavery and it was split
- In the end clergy were then allowed to practice slavery

Baptists:

- Avoided to make a statement at all about slavery
- In conclusion it seems as though they did not actively allow slavery but said nothing against it

Presbyterians: Seems to be pro federal government which split the church in two

5. James Henley Thornwell "According to Thornwell, the church can merely assert what the bible teaches and must remain silent on that which the Bible is silent" p.85

➤ Bible Reflections

Genesis 9:25-27

-How did people interpret and use this passage during and post civil war?

➤ Prayer