

FAITH **UNDER** **CONSTRUCTION**

STUDY GUIDE WITH
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

EPISODE 2:

Is Christianity A White Man's Religion?

Hosts Rasool Berry and Christin Thorpe talk with Theologian and Pastor Dr. Eric Mason about combating the myth of Christianity as the "White Man's Religion."

1. Rasool Berry and Christin Thorpe open by discussing the misconception that Christianity is the White man's religion. Have you experienced tension with your identity as an African American and as a Christian? What settings challenged your faith the most? Supported your faith the most?
2. Dr. Eric Mason says, "A part of being an evangelical is being about social change, not separate from it." Unpack what this statement means. Do you agree with this statement? In what ways have you seen believers separate the two ideas? In what ways have you seen believers combine the two ideas?
3. "When it comes to forming your identity, you don't restore dignity with skin color, but you start with the *Imago Dei*" –Dr. Mason. *Imago Dei* is Latin for "image of God." We as humans are made in God's image (see Genesis 1:26-27). What helps you to define your identity in Christ? For example, is it a certain Scripture, a belief, a Christian role model, an inspirational message, or your church community?
4. When it comes to reconstructing our faith, "we have to do this in a way where we hand the power back rightly and in a way where we don't take the power for ourselves" –Dr. Mason. Why is this important to understand when it comes to reclaiming our identity in Christ as African Americans?
5. "God is for all of us and [for] us seeking a more just world where there aren't as many oppressed." –Christin Thorpe. Have you ever viewed God as more partial toward either the privileged or the oppressed? Read Acts 10:34-35 and discuss how this realization from Peter fits in with the podcast's discussion.
6. God finds value in passing down the wealth of knowledge from generation to generation (see Deuteronomy 6:7-9). This discussion encourages us to share events in our lifetime so that the next generation can have knowledge on how to handle and make sense of issues. How will you make an effort to inform the next generation?
7. What do you think about the perspective that Dr. Mason says South Africans have about Black Americans? South Africans say: "African Americans are the global image and character leaders for the diaspora. . . . We view you as the avatar of blackness because there is so much respect for [your] journey through all [you've] gone through." How might this realization impact your actions and work in global ministry?
8. What do you think is the difference between biblical Christianity and Western Christianity? How can you convey this to others?

9. “While from a biblical standpoint we’re all one under the cross, there is this sense where that doesn’t mean that we can’t address the issues from the past . . . we should in the same way we saw in Acts 6.” –Rasool Berry. Read Acts 6, which addresses the conflict between Hellenistic Jewish widows being excluded from the service Hebraic Jews received. Discuss how we can have healthy conversations about racial divides in the church. Do real and honest questions create fear in you or relief? Explain.
10. Dr. Mason believes that the church needs to be in a constant state of learning, exegeting both Scripture and culture so that we will never plateau. How can we merge the conversation on current issues and the Word? What current issues in our world can be addressed by Scripture?
11. “I understand that the gospel restores my dignity, not these other cosplay activities.” –Dr. Eric Mason. On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being the lowest), how confident are you in knowing that the gospel is the center of your identity? Spend time praying with your group for God to restore your mindset with your identity. Pray for clarity, transparency, knowledge, sensitivity, and healing.