

Mika Edmondson on Segregation and Affinity Spaces

Feb 24 • 9 tweets • 2 min read

Segregation refers to legalized separation and disparities to promote the lie of racial supremacy. It was a tool to enforce the racial caste system in America. Blacks were not just put in separate spaces but “inferior” spaces. Relegated not to other seats on the bus but the back.

For 350 years, segregation was the law in American churches. Blacks were relegated to the back of worship spaces, barred from the communion table and placed in shackles which were affixed to the pews. Imagine the blasphemy of having shackles built into church pews. #AmericanRacism

This arrangement promoted the legalism of white supremacy in America. More than just a legal arrangement, it was a theological statement. The idea that whiteness brought a person closer to God and that blackness was further away. The doctrine was called “hereditary heathenism” Enter the black church. Richard Allen, Absalom Jones, Maria Stewart, and other Black believers rejected the legalism of white supremacy. They insisted that Christ alone (not race) grants us access to God. To protect that truth they founded the African Methodist Episcopal church.

Other historic black denominations followed in the wake of the AME church. This amounted to a second reformation, freeing worshippers from the cultural legalism of White supremacy they faced in other worship spaces. The aim was to affirm Christ alone as our righteousness.

Rather than affirm white *supremacy* like segregation, these spaces affirmed black *equality* and dignity. Black folks needed some place where their unique burdens were addressed on an equal basis and they were made to feel like children of God.

Enter affinity spaces. Segregation promote white supremacy while affinity spaces address the legacy of american segregation by affirming black equality. They address the unique burdens of black believers living in America to strengthen them *as they fellowship with all believers.

Women’s ministry isn’t segregation.
Men’s ministry isn’t segregation.
Youth ministry isn’t segregation.
Latino ministries aren’t practicing segregation.
Korean Churches aren’t practicing segregation.

These affinity spaces strengthen believers for fellowship in the broader church

There is a real life person behind sister Basham’s avatar with real joys, sorrows, and burdens. I am praying for her today and invite you to as well. May the Lord meet her in her burdens & lift them. I am also praying especially for pastor Ince as well. We all need God’s grace.

[Find the original X Stream, here](#)