

Chapter 6—Anti-Blackness

Going forward, rethink these chapters

Summary Points

According to DiAngelo, a key privilege of dominance is the ability to see oneself *only* as an individual. In order to disrupt our unracialized identities, we must discuss white people as a group. Yet to carry out racial generalization for people of color is damaging because it creates one generic category that denies the different ways different groups of people of color experience racism. (Reference for Question #1)

It is DiAngelo's contention that there is a unique anti-black sentiment that is integral to white identity; "in the white mind, black people are the ultimate racial "other." 90

- She is addressing her readers at the societal level.
- "anti-blackness is foundational to our very identities as white people" 91
- Whiteness has always been predicated on blackness; there was no concept of race or a white race before the need to justify the enslavement of Africans
- But perhaps most fundamentally, anti-blackness comes from deep guilt about what we have done and continue to do; the unbearable knowledge of our complicity with the profound torture of black people from past to present." 94

- Whites need black people; blackness is essential to the creation of white identity
- Whiteness isn't real.
- To put it bluntly, I believe that the white collective fundamentally hates blackness for what it reminds us of: that we are capable and guilty of perpetrating immeasurable harm and that our gains come through the subjugation of others.

Reflection Questions

1. Do you see yourself primarily as an individual?(Look to the first paragraph in summary for context)
2. Do you fear losing your whiteness? DiAngelo rightly notes, "whites can only be white if someone is not white" 95.

- a. How does this affect your ability to love your neighbor?
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3. what is the overall purpose of this particular chapter? What is DiAngelo doing here?

Recurring Questions

4. How has your understanding of whiteness progressed?
5. How do you sense God is calling you to respond?
6. What are your lingering fragile responses and why?
7. Are you sure you understand the Cross?

Travis' Thoughts

In all honesty, this chapter gets away from me. I have read it three times over and still can not articulate what I think about it. Perhaps it is the case that, as I have said in the introductory remarks of this document, my racial stamina and fragility stands in the way of me digesting the material and thereby being able to formulate

questions. It is no doubt the case that *societally* white people have the anti-black sentiments that DiAngelo describes. Moreover, white people do need the “other” to sustain their whiteness.