THE 60'S PROBLEM:
THE CRUSADES, SLAVERY AND DISCRIMINATION

BIG IDEA: WE OFTEN HEAR THAT THE CHURCH SHOULD REMAIN SILENT ON MORAL ISSUES BECAUSE OF ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE CRUSADES, SLAVERY AND SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION. **I REFER TO THIS PROBLEM AS THE "60S PROBLEM" BECAUSE THESE EVENTS OCCURRED, AT LEAST IN PART, IN THE 1260S, THE 1860S AND THE 1960S.** THIS IS MUCH MORE THAN AN HISTORICAL PROBLEM, FOR THESE DIFFICULT CHAPTERS IN THE CHURCH'S HISTORY ARE USED TO UNDERMINE THE CHURCH'S MORAL AUTHORITY AND, AT TIMES, THE GOSPEL ITSELF. WE MUST BE EQUIPPED TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION AND TO EXPLAIN THAT ANSWER TO BROADER CULTURE.

THE POINT: MANY CONVERSATIONS ON THESE TOPICS EITHER BRUSH OVER HISTORICAL REALITIES OR (AT LEAST IMPLICITLY) QUESTION THE AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE. THE POINT OF THIS PRESENTATION IS TO SHOW THAT THESE DARK EPISODES IN THE CHURCH'S HISTORY WERE DEPARTURES FROM BIBLICAL TEACHING AND ARE A STARK WARNING TO THE CHURCH ABOUT SMUGGLING IN POPULAR BUT UNBIBLICAL IDEAS FROM OUR CULTURAL MOMENT.

TOPICS COVERED:

- **SLAVERY IN THE BIBLE**
- **THE CRUSADES**
- **AMERICAN SLAVERY**
- **DISCRIMINATION**

SLAVERY IN THE BIBLE

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE ACTUALLY SAY ABOUT SLAVERY? DID GOD, WHO MADE ALL MEN AND WOMEN ACCORDING TO HIS IMAGE, CONDONE THE PRACTICE OF OWNING OR SELLING OTHER HUMAN BEINGS? IN THIS PART OF THE PRESENTATION, WE DIVE INTO OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES REFERENCING SLAVERY AND EXPLAIN THESE PASSAGES IN LIGHT OF HISTORICAL PRACTICES.

THE CRUSADES

THESE RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED MILITARY CAMPAIGNS, WHICH INCLUDED THE WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER OF NONCOMBATANTS AND WEAPONIZED THE GOSPEL, ARE A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF HOW FAITH CAN BE HIJACKED BY CIVIC RELIGION AND POLITICAL MOVEMENTS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE MOTIVATION AND HISTORY OF THESE CAMPAIGNS AND TO ANALYZE THEM IN THE LIGHT OF SCRIPTURE.

SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH

DID YOU KNOW THAT SLAVERY AS PRACTICED BY THE EUROPEAN COLONIAL POWERS AND IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH IS ACTUALLY CONDEMNED BY SCRIPTURE? THOUGH PAINFUL, WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE ORIGINS OF RACE-BASED SLAVERY, THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGES USED TO EXCUSE OR CONDONE SUCH PRACTICES, THE RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED ABOLITION MOVEMENT AND THE CIVIL WAR THAT EVENTUALLY ENDED CHATTEL SLAVERY IN THE UNITED STATES.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES

THE CHURCH'S COMPLICITY IN OR AT SILENCE TOWARD SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN SOUTH IS OFTEN USED AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE CHURCH'S FAILED PUBLIC WITNESS AND, EVEN WORSE, AS A REASON TO REJECT THE GOSPEL. HOWEVER, A CAREFUL STUDY OF THE LITTLE-KNOWN EUGENICS MOVEMENT AND WIDESPREAD DISCRIMINATION IN AMERICAN SOCIETY POINTS TO A NON-BIBLICAL CULPRIT (SOCIAL DARWINISM) RATHER THAN TO SCRIPTURE AS THE CHIEF CAUSE OF THIS PRACTICE. THERE IS AN IMPORTANT LESSON TO BE LEARNED HERE, BUT THAT LESSON IS NOT TO ABANDON THE GOSPEL. RATHER, THE LESSON IS TO EMBRACE IT AS THE SUREST GUARD AGAINST TRIBALISM AND RACISM IN AMERICAN SOCIETY.

MATERIALS PROVIDED

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION
HANDOUT FOR NOTE TAKING
PHOTO AND BIO OF SPEAKER