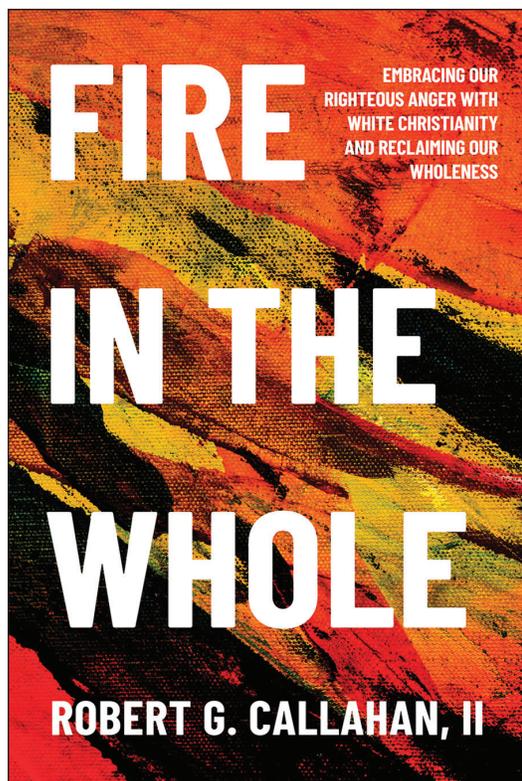


# Book Club Questions for Robert G. Callahan, II's *Fire in the Whole*



How willing is your church to talk about issues of racism and social justice? Is it a natural part of preaching, prayer, and group discussion? Does the church react only when current events demand? Does it avoid addressing them altogether?

On pages 13-14, white Christianity is defined, in part, by its indifference toward the effects of racism on the church. What examples of apathy or “all lives matter” evasion have you witnessed in your faith community?

Have you questioned your faith or considered leaving the church due to its complicity with racism? How has the church’s racism, misogyny, or LGBTQIA+ bigotry played a part in your evolving spiritual identity?

How would you respond to those who claim the gospel is unconcerned with issues like racism or social justice?

How can the church move beyond performative actions toward meaningful change? What practical steps can the church take to create a safe space for minorities to express their concerns and experiences and to foster a culture of empathy and understanding for minorities?

Have you ever felt you had to keep silent or wear a mask in order to survive in a certain environment? How does doing so affect a person long-term? What difference does it make if church is one of those environments?

Consider the public statements of Brandt Jean and Jonathan Isaac in response to racist violence (pp. 130–33). Why should or shouldn’t Christians celebrate these perspectives from Black Americans?

Have you ever felt that anger is sinful or not appropriate for followers of Christ? How can you reframe your understanding of anger as a powerful and potentially righteous emotion?

The differences between repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, restitution, reparations, and restoration are explored on pages 195–200. Making use of these terms, how would you describe the path forward for practitioners of white Christianity and Black Christians?

What overall conclusions do you take away from reading and discussing this book? How will those conclusions direct your future actions?

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