

**Color of Law Book Study Questions**  
**Session 3 – April 22**

**Speaker** – James Parks

**Facilitator** – Charese Jordan Moore

**Topic – Home Ownership, Wealth, and Barriers to Both (Chapters 4, 7, 10)**

**1. Theme: I Don't Want Nobody to Give Me Nothing. Open The Door. I'll Get It Myself.**

How do you think policies, like exclusionary zoning, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, and Federal Housing Administration loans contributed to segregation and the establishment of the White middle class? Do you see how these policies have created the racial wealth gap?

**2. Theme: Talking Loud and Saying Nothing**

Rothstein's book catalogues how churches (often Presbyterian) participated in actions that helped to create segregated neighborhoods in urban centers and helped to move white families to equally segregated suburban communities. The PC(USA) has written overtures, formed committees, created resources ad infinitum to denounce these actions. Today, we have the Matthew 25 Initiative and African-Americans in top leadership positions in the PC(USA). How can the Church better live into the teachings of Christ as expressed in the Gospels?

**3. Theme: This Is A (White) Man's World—Poor Choices or Unearned Privilege?**

How did these chapters challenge you to consider that the racial wealth gap resulted more from intentional policies, than from poor lifestyle choices by African-Americans and other people of color? Are people born poor, poor through their own choices or made poor by societal judgments, policies, and actions?

**4. Theme: Living In America—Elections Matter**

Often, we think that the impact of policies is unintentional—even impact that lasts for decades. As people of faith, how do our choices about civic participation and voting reflect our values?

**5. Theme: Think!—Part of the Solution or Part of the Problem**

Are bureaucrats and “pencil pushers” just following directions? Who's making the decisions that result in policies that impact segregation and the racial wealth gap?

***For Self-reflection (We will not discuss this on April 22, but continue to ponder this one as we move toward our final session on May 13 and taking action.)***

**Theme: Failure to Launch (Get Up Offa That Thing)**

What would it take for you to move from being a passive ally in fighting racism to being a co-conspirator with skin in the game?