

the children's animated series, Veggie Tales, that taught biblical stories to its audience. My children grew up on these videos.

Many of us are accustomed to only speaking of racial bias or harm in relation to overt, vocal, and unabashed white supremacist groups, like Neo-Nazis or the Ku Klux Klan. However, and sadly, racial bias is more widespread. "White privilege" is a way to describe particular ways in which racial bias manifests itself more prevalently and subtly.

White privilege is defined as societal practices that benefit white people beyond what is commonly experienced by people of color under the same social, political, and economic circumstances. In my economic training, we commonly spoke of holding "all else equal" besides the variable we wanted to test. Here, all else held equal, I, as a white person, have benefited more than my fellow citizens of color.

White privilege exists as the legacy of historic and enduring biases, practices, and even overt racism that were created, designed, and adopted to marginalize and disadvantage people of color. As white people, we have unintentionally benefited from this difference in treatment.

As a white person, I've found it uncomfortable to admit not only that white privilege exists, but that I have directly benefited. This does not mean that you or I have not had hardships in our lives. It simply means that my skin color has not added to the difficulties you and I have endured.

White privilege does not implicate all white people as "RACISTS". In fact, white privilege is enjoyed by decent, honest, well-intended white people. In fact, one consequence of past racially biased policies like "redlining," which I'll summarize in a bit, has been that our communities, schools, and churches are often de facto racially segregated, meaning that we don't regularly get exposure to the perspectives of people of other races. Without regular personal interaction or deliberate research, therefore it's hard to see how our life experiences differ because of race -- it's hard to see white privilege.

What's more, talking about "white privilege" can feel uncomfortable to white people for several reasons:

1. We as white people are not used to being identified, described, or defined by our race.
2. It can feel like an accusation against us instead of what it actually is: a mere description of a phenomenon we've unconsciously experienced
3. The words "white privilege" just doesn't sound like words that apply to poor or rural white people, who certainly face unique sets of challenges. We're used to associating "privilege" with being wealthy.
4. The words "white privilege" also seem to imply that white people have never struggled, which is not true. White people struggle, but *not because of the color of their skin* -- in contrast to non-white people.

I want to explain a way in which I have benefited from white privilege, and which I did not come to understand until recently. I, personally, had absolutely nothing to do with the creation of banking and zoning laws that were adopted decades ago across the entire country, a system now known as "redlining." "Redlining" prohibited people of color from getting mortgages and purchasing homes in neighborhoods where property value has since increased, where residents could own their homes, send their children to well-funded schools, and gain equity and personal wealth, which they then could pass to their