

Q & A



Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around

How the Black Church's Public Witness Leads Us Out of the Culture War

November 4, 2025 | \$25.99, 224 pages, hardcover | 978-1-5140-0842-3

This book is not just for the Black church—it's a call for the whole church to bear public witness in a distinctly Christian way. Whether you're politically engaged or disillusioned by the brokenness of Christian public witness today, *Don't Let Nobody Turn You Around* will inspire you to act with courage, conviction, and Christ-likeness.

Cultivating Wisdom, Curiosity, and Wonder

Why did you write this particular book?

Justin Giboney: First, I would say that this book is very personal to me. Obviously, part of the storyline surrounds my grandmother, Willie Faye. My grandparents were part of the civil rights movement. They dedicated their lives to the Black church, so those are two subjects that are personal and important to me.

We all know that the civil rights generation is passing away. Regrettably, some of the lessons and principles that they taught the world are passing away with them, meaning that we're not applying them in the way we should be applying them. If we were, we wouldn't be in the middle of this culture war that we find ourselves in.

In addition to that, I think there was some revisionist history going around. Part of that was kind of taking the Christianity out of the civil rights movement and making it kind of the secular movement, but also associating orthodoxy with this type of toxic evangelicalism, when the truth was orthodoxy was at the center of the civil rights movement. I'm not sure a lot of people know that, so I wanted to correct that record.

The other thing is our public discourse is broken. It's in shambles. What that means is that a lot of suffering people aren't getting the help and the solutions that they need because the culture war doesn't allow us to get to those. We're in a situation where a lot of people think being mean, nasty, and hypercritical is to be authentic and effective.

I think there are Christians, too, who seem to think through their public witness that we must be partial and we must be dishonest to win. I wanted to say: I don't just have to tell you in theory that that's not true. I can give you an example of one of the greatest public witnesses that the world has seen as proof of concept that you can be effective and be faithful and do it the right way. So I wanted people to see this can be done another way. It's not naive to think being faithful and doing it the right way can be effective.

What are the main messages you were trying to get across?

Justin: Number one was that we cannot separate our faith from our public witness. We can't be one thing in church and something else out of church. The civil rights movement, as we see them singing the same songs in church and while they're advocating, shows us that these two things are not mutually exclusive.

Another point that I make is that if we're going to center progressivism or conservatism, we're going to fall short. I critique both of those and say we really have to center the gospel, and that's very different.

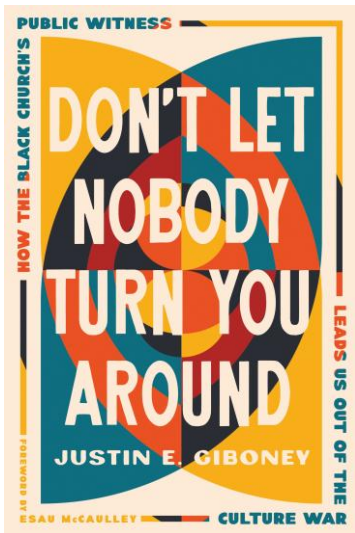


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Here's an important point as well, which is while the civil rights movement was fighting against something that was clearly very wicked, they never saw their opponents as irredeemable, and they never saw themselves as purely good. They acknowledge the sin within themselves, which I think both sides of the aisle right now just don't do. But as Christians, we must do.

Lastly, I wanted to make sure that we understood that moral imagination had to overcome cynicism, that we had to lead with moral imagination, with civic pluralism if we were going to be constructive and help the people that we claim to be advocating for. So that's really what this book was about. I think you'll see that it's not just an exaltation of the Black church. It talks about some of the flaws. It critiques it against some of the principles of that day.

At the end of the book, I make sure we know that this is the legacy of the church, not just one part of the church. Different traditions and different pieces came together to make this one of the greatest public witnesses that the world has seen.



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BIO



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Justin Giboney: Founder, President, and Political Strategist

Justin Giboney (JD, Vanderbilt University) is an author, ordained minister, attorney, political strategist, founder, and president.

He is the founder and president of the AND Campaign, a Christian civic organization focused on raising civic literacy, promoting civic pluralism, and equipping Christians to engage politics with the love and truth of Jesus Christ. Justin is dedicated to promoting Christ-centered values as the basis for engagement in politics and social issues. He coauthored a book elaborating on this perspective in [Compassion \(&\) Conviction: The AND Campaign's Guide to Faithful Civic Engagement](#), together with Michael Wear and Chris Butler.



In 2012 and 2016, he earned the trust of constituents in Georgia's 5th congressional district, who elected him as a delegate for the Democratic National Convention. Giboney has also contributed to the community through his service on the Urban League of Greater Atlanta Board of Directors.

Beyond his political endeavors, Justin's perspectives on the intersection of faith and civic responsibility have garnered attention from reputable publications, including *The New York Times* and *Christianity Today*. A respected voice, he has also penned thought-provoking op-eds for publications such as *The Hill*.

Articles:

- [Black, Christian, and Transcending the Political Binary](#), *The New York Times*
- [The Truth of a Love Supreme](#), *Christianity Today*
- [Racial Unity is Out of Style](#), *Christianity Today*
- [Ethics Aren't Graded on a Curve](#), *Christianity Today*
- [Backbone, Mouthpiece, and the Good News](#), *Comment Magazine*

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