

HOW CAN THE CHURCH SOLVE THE RACIAL DIVIDE?

Second Edition

THE HEART OF RACIAL JUSTICE

How Soul Change Leads to Social Change



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& RICK RICHARDSON

FOREWORD BY JOHN M. PERKINS

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*“It is sad that in an enlightened world the Christian church even needs to deal with these issues today. . . . I highly recommend . . . **The Heart of Racial Justice**. It is a blueprint for the Christian church.”*

—John M. Perkins,

Author of *Beyond Charity: The Call to Christian Community Development*

The racial divide is one of the most pervasive problems the church faces. In *The Heart of Racial Justice* coauthors Rick Richardson and Brenda Salter McNeil say that the problem must be solved through *both* internal change and community transformation. Together they explore these questions:

- How are the cross and resurrection and the gift of the Spirit adequate responses to the problem of racial hatred, pride, fear and division?
- How will we use our faith as a force for change and not merely as a smoke screen for self-protection and self-interest?
- How will we pursue spiritual solutions and spiritual weapons in a way that solves and doesn't just reinforce the great problems of our society?

McNeil and Richardson ask: “What should the church’s response be in a world being torn apart by prejudice, hatred and fear? We believe it is imperative that the Christian church regain its integrity to address injustice. This will require that we relinquish the individualism and isolation that have been prevalent among evangelical Christians in the past, so that we can develop new models of racial reconciliation, social justice and spiritual healing. Our unity and reconciliation efforts could be the greatest witness of the church to the power of the gospel in the twenty-first century.”

Brenda Salter McNeil is the founder and president of Overflow Ministries, Inc., a multiethnic organization devoted to the ministry of racial and ethnic reconciliation.

Rick Richardson is associate director of evangelism for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA.