PROTESTANTISM, LIBERALISM, AND RACIAL EQUALITY

A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE HONORS COLLEGE
Introduction

- Why is the topic interesting?
- Racial equality as a goal
- Definition of racism
- Affirmative Action
- Far right, racist movements within Protestantism
History of Protestantism

- The Protestant Reformation
- Martin Luther
- John Calvin
- King Henry VIII
Social Gospel

• Struggle of early Protestant founders similar to civil rights movement
• Shared clash with existing religious authority
Individual Salvation

• Individual salvation and the concept “freedom”
• The concept “salvation”
Table. Percentage Affiliation Tendency and Portion of Americans by Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>% of Americans</th>
<th>Evangelical Christian % in group</th>
<th>Mainline Christian % in group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglican</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>70.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>94.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>85.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anabaptist</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>39.8</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>88.3</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
African-American Protestantism

• Christianity in the United States and the legacy of slavery
• Martin Luther King, Jr.
• The Black Church and Evangelical Christianity
Christian Identity

• Introduction to Christian Identity
• Religious views of Christian Identity
• Christian Identity member profile
Personal Analysis of the Gospels

• The liberal interpretation of the Gospels
• Do Jesus’s attacks on the rich constitute a liberal case for economic equality?
Jesus’s Teachings

• Economic equality
• Do not make profit from loans
• Rhetoric of humility and equality
• Religion is above the family
• Wars may be just
• Misses opportunity to condemn slavery
Summary of Interpretation

• Mainline Protestant case
• Evangelical Christian case
Conclusion

- Why was the project undertaken?
- Social gospel vs. individual salvation
- Christian Identity
- The Black Church