

Joshua Peeler (preaching), “Color Blind Politics: How African-American Pastors Serve as Examples for Political Engagement from the Pulpit”

Historically, African American pastors have served as a beacon of hope, education, and authority regarding political discourse. Beginning with west African tribalism and moving through the era of slavery in the United States, this article surveys the development of African American pastors as a political authority. In part the rise of the African American pastor coincides with the influence of Black Churches. From emancipation to Civil Rights, the Black Church was at the forefront of social advocacy and authenticity. This philosophy of authenticity was evidenced by the content, delivery, and form of the sermon. Although steeped in African American culture, many of these principles may be adapted for cross-cultural application. In several significant ways, the descendants of slaves serve as examples for descendants of slave owners. With authenticity as a guiding principle, this article concludes arguing that political engagement from the pulpit ought to be informed by an examination of the African American pastorate.