

The Prophetic Role of the African-American Church

I. Opening Considerations:

- This is not an “apology” for Barak Obama.
- It is not fair to judge Dr. Jeremiah Wright based on some quotes from his sermons.
- It is not fair to attack a candidate because of their religious affiliation.

II. The Key Issue and Question:

- Comments made by Dr. Jeremiah Wright and the reactions to his comments have raised a question:

“Is the African-American church anti-American or unpatriotic?”

III. **What has been the posture of the Black church toward America historically?**

- From its inception, the Black church has been an institution of protest and social critique.

- In what ways has the Black church had a prophetic ministry:
 - A. It's existence

Invisible Institution → Plantation Churches → Independent Northern Churches

- B. Preaching
- C. Social Uplift Programs (Period of Reconstruction)
- D. Direct Confrontation of Injustice (1963 - Birmingham, Alabama)

IV. **Is “prophetic ministry” biblical?**

- A snapshot of prophetic ministry: Confrontation. (I Kings 21)
 - A. The Situation (vv. 1-4)
 - B. The Solution (vv. 5-16)
 - C. The Confrontation (vv. 17–29)