

## **Examples of White Privilege**

*Many of us have a general understanding that the system of racism serves to privilege whites and penalize people of color, but fail to recognize the subtle ways that white privilege benefits them on a daily basis.*

- I can give talks and be considered an expert on things other than my own race
- I expect that the police, restaurant servers, and people behind the counter will treat me with respect and friendliness
- My anger at social injustice will not be written off as “playing the race card,” or over-reacting
- I am rarely mistaken for a client
- If I do jail time, it will likely be at a time and place of my choosing
- I can generally drive anywhere in my city without being worried about being targeted by police
- Racism is something I can think about when I choose to
- I can be pretty sure that neighbors will not be hostile to me or my race if I move into an all Black neighborhood
- I can remain oblivious of the neighborhood history, culture and customs of persons of color (who constitute the world's majority) without having any penalty for my ignorance
- My way of resolving conflict, singing songs and dressing is considered the norm
- Because my race has provided me with accumulated wealth, I can take up the mantle of simplicity with gusto
- I can join almost any organization or community without being thought of a representative of my race
- I can swear, dress in thrift store clothes, or be unfriendly without having people attribute these choices to the bad morals, the poor character, poverty or the illiteracy of my race
- When I speak out on social justice issues, it's accepted that I as a white person can speak as an authority, on issues that directly affect people of color
- If I lay around the house, eat unhealthy food, have trouble finding a job, or get drunk, it is not considered an example of my race's history of poor choices

Visit Peggy McIntosh's “Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack” for more examples.

*Part of a book project “Recipes for the Beloved Community”.  
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