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What it's about:

In her book, "[*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*](#)," Austin Channing Brown describes her experiences as the only - or one of only a handful - Black people in predominantly white organizations. Channing-Brown pens a thoughtful reflection on a lifetime of struggles navigating spaces "made for whiteness." As a Black Christian woman, she gives insight into how her identities shape her experience and paint an honest picture of how racism impacts Black people in America.

Why it's important:

Our inability to acknowledge and affirm blackness can create unwelcoming and unsafe environments for our members. As organizations that strive to create better men, who seek to develop lifelong friendships, it's of utmost importance that every person can be fully themselves. The reality is that is often not true for people of color in predominantly white organizations. So, what should you do about it? Acknowledge differences and be willing to learn more about others' identities. Change is made when we believe in others' lived experiences, and act as we learn, to create a better world for all.

Reflect and discuss:

Austin pens a letter to her unborn son in which she shares her fears about the dangers he'll encounter simply because of the color of his skin; what were you taught about race? What messages about race were shared with you early on?

The author recounts moments when white people are especially defensive when confronted with topics around race. Have you ever been defensive when confronted about race? If yes, why was this the case? As fraternity men, how can we focus on creating safe spaces and promoting belonging for students of any background represented on our campuses?

Want to learn more? Check out the following resources:

- [Unlocking Us | Brené Brown's interview with Austin Channing Brown](#)
- [Ctrl Cultural Relations | Communicating Across Differences](#)