

## **Table 2—How Offender-Centered Theories Make Race Matter**

- **These theorists are not just telling us why blacks have higher crime rates than whites, they are also telling us what it means to ‘be black’ (Covington 1999, 2003)**
- **By telling us about the beliefs, values, emotional states or personality traits of black people, they are telling us what ‘being black’ means**
- **‘Being black’ means that you are part of a black-only subculture of violence that defines violence as masculinity or that you have black-only emotional states such as self-hatred and racial hatred**
- **Because these black-only subcultures or black-only emotional states explain high rates of black violence, ‘being black’ in these theories is a trait that predisposes to violence**
- **In these theories, ‘being black’ is a trait that can be used to lump blacks together and distinguish (split) them from whites. Hence, ‘being black’ is different from ‘being white’ because ‘being black’ makes you more prone to violence**