



RACISM

STARTING THE DISCUSSION...

There have been few topics in the past couple years that have been talked about as often and passionately as racism. It has dominated the cultural conversation on how we ought to respond to past injustices, current policy issues and how we personally should respond to people of other races. But the goal of this series is not to simply repeat the cultural conversation but ask the very important question, how does the Gospel shape our understanding on racism? How should we as Christians respond to racism in our culture and how should the church respond? The Bible calls us to see every person as being made in the image of God, regardless of race or ethnicity. All people are made in His image and in Jesus we find that truth amplified. More than just regarding others well, the call is to love your neighbour! The call of the gospel is not indifference to people of other races but love and care for those around us. Ultimately then, racism is a heart issue and therefore what is most needed is a transformed heart!

KEY TEXTS: GENESIS 1:26, LUKE 10:30-37

Genesis 1:26

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Luke 10:30-37

³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise



a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Additional Texts: *Genesis 5:1, 9:6; Leviticus 19:2, 13-18, 33-34; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 17:24-26; 1 Corinthians 11:7; Revelation 7:9-10*

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What does it mean to be made in "the image of God?" How does this theme work its way throughout the Bible? Look through the above verses and trace this theme; how does Jesus fulfill this theme? (see also 2 Cor 5:17)
2. Why does Jesus tell the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10? What question was asked to him? How does this parable answer the question and what does Jesus call us to do in response?

APPLYING THE WORD

3. Does the gospel provide a compelling answer to the issue of racism? If yes, what biblical passages would you use to support your answer? How would you explain the gospel's answer to racism to an unbeliever?
4. Discuss practical ways Christians, in response to the gospel, can promote healthy interracial unity, whether in your workplace, in your school (if you are a student), in sports activities, in your neighborhood, or in your church.

PRAYING & ACTING

1. How can our group show the gospel in our community on the issue of racism? What practical steps could we take to help our neighbourhood hear the gospel?
2. Pray that God would use our words and our actions to show the superior greatness of Jesus through our lives.

