



RACISM

[Psalm 139:23-24](#); [Genesis 1:27](#); [Ephesians 2:14-17](#); [Galatians 2:11-13](#); [Colossians 3:13-15](#)

SERMON SUMMARY....

Racism is evil, disgusting, and sinful. Racism is dishonoring to God and devastating to those who are oppressed by racist ideas, attitudes and actions. Racism begins in the heart, but it impacts and influences that which our words and hands touch. But racism is also deceptive. It's often easy to spot in others but difficult to spot within ourselves; Afterall, who wants to admit that racism dwells within our hearts. For all the devastation and destruction that racism has caused, both to individuals and people groups, the Gospel of Jesus offers both hope and healing. Racism seeks to keep the 'wall of hostility' up, but the Gospel message proclaims that racism has been defeated in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The tentacles of racism run deep, both within the human heart and the social systems and structures of our culture. The Gospel message proclaims reconciliation while also propelling us to live radically different lives confronting racism not only within our own heart, but also within one another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS...

1. Why is it so difficult to spot and/or admit racism within our own hearts? Why do we readily admit the sin of pride, or lust, or greed but when it comes to racism we respond so quickly with 'not me!' How can praying [Psalm 139:23-24](#) help us begin to understand 'sin' that dwells within our hearts; specifically any biases or prejudices within our own heart?
2. When you see or learn about a person or a people being impacted by racism, how does that impact your heart? Is there apathy or are you compelled in compassion to act?
3. As a GROUP, read [Ephesians 2:14-17](#). What impact does the Gospel message, namely what Jesus has accomplished on the cross, have on racism? When Paul says that the 'dividing wall of hostility' has been torn down for good, as Christians, how can and should this good news impact a culture that largely rejects the gospel message? How can a 'united' people begin to make a difference in a divided culture?
4. Read [Genesis 1:27](#). Notice how, before there was 'race', there was 'Imago Dei' – the image of God. How does seeing the Image of God in people first begin to root out racism (biases & prejudices) from within our hearts?
5. As you consider the example of Paul calling out 'racism' within Peter in [Galatians 2:11-13](#), share with your GROUP a time where you have seen this modeled well? Why do we have such a hard time doing for others what we see Paul doing for Peter? What prevents us from 'speaking up' and 'speaking out'?

REFLECT....

Do you need to repent of any biases or prejudices that God has revealed in your own heart?

Is there anyone that you need to offer forgiveness to because of their racism towards you?

Is there anyone you need to ask for forgiveness because of your racism toward them?