

THIS IS US

PART 4: OVERCOMING RACISM

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Racism: 1) Hating a person because of their race. 2) Believing one race is superior or inferior to another race 3) Prejudice towards another race

Prejudice: pre-conceived opinion or judgment that is formed against another person that is unfavorable, unreasonable and unjustified; genuine disregard for another person's rights

HEALING THE GREAT DIVIDE

1. We recognize God is the author of DIVERSITY.

Acts 17:26a From one man he created all the nations (ethnos = ethnicity) throughout the whole earth.

2. We seek to understand, (I want to hear and know your story) rather than be UNDERSTOOD (I want you to hear and know my story).

John 4:9 The woman was surprised, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. She said to Jesus, "You are a Jew, and I am a Samaritan woman. Why are you asking me for a drink?"

3. We choose to forgive and serve one another.

John 20:23 NKJV If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.

4. We love and respect all people regardless of their race, ethnicity, social or economic status, physicality, education, or immigration status.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

5. We must adopt a KINGDOM culture rather than a worldly culture.

❖ Worldly culture divides us. Kingdom culture UNITES us.

John 18:36 My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world.

Matthew 6:33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Ephesians 6:12 NCV Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.

Mark 3:25 AMP And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

Revelations 7:9 After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation (ethnos) and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands.

6. We view people through the lens of GRACE, not race.

Philippians 2:1-7 Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.

Acts 10:34-36 Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. ³⁵ In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. ³⁶ This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

7. We unite as one people, the HUMAN race.

Galatians 3:26-29 For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.

Romans 12:9-10 Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

**All scriptures are from the NLT translation unless otherwise noted.*

REACHING OUR CITY ONE LIFE AT A TIME IN 2018

1. Pursue ONE unbeliever and become the best friend they've ever had.
2. Reach ONE person every DAY with a random act of kindness.
3. Minister to ONE person every WEEK you attend church.
4. Bring ONE new person to church every MONTH.
5. Lead ONE person to Jesus every YEAR and disciple them.