

LOVE. NO MATTER WHAT

Love, No Matter What the Race
February 22-23, 2020

Series Verse: Proverbs 19:11 (TPT)

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A wise person demonstrates patience, for mercy means holding your tongue. When you are insulted, be quick to forgive and forget it, for you are virtuous when you overlook an offense.

John 13:34-35 (TPT)

“So I give you now a new commandment: Love each other just as much as I have loved you. For when you demonstrate the same love I have for you by loving one another, everyone will know that you’re my true followers.”

1 Chronicles 12:32 (GW)

From Issachar’s descendants there were 200 leaders who understood the times and knew what Israel should do. Their relatives were under their command.

Racism is still a cultural crisis.

6 Degrees of Racism

1. I’m a racist and proud of it.
2. I’m a bigot, so I’m not really racist.
3. I’m prejudiced and race is only partially how I judge people.
4. I’m unaware of the racism that still exists.
5. I’m apathetic and don’t care if there is still racism.
6. I’m compassionate, but inactive when it comes to fighting racism.

God says there is only one race – the human race.

Genesis 1:27 (NLT)

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God created diversity and man created disharmony.

Genesis 11:8-9 (NLT)

In that way, the LORD scattered them all over the world, and they stopped building the city. That is why the city was called Babel, because that is where the LORD confused the people with different languages. In this way he scattered them all over the world.

What’s at the core of racism?

- I’m better than you in some way.

Philippians 2:3-5 (NLT)

Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.

- I’m more valuable than you are.

Acts 10:34-35 (NLT)

Then Peter replied, “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right.”

- I’m loved by God more than you are.

John 3:16 (NLT)

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

How Can We Heal Racism by Loving, No Matter What?

Acts 15:7-14 (GNT)

After a long debate Peter stood up and said, “My friends, you know that a long time ago God chose me from among you to preach the Good News to the Gentiles, so that they could hear and believe. And God, who knows the thoughts of everyone, showed his approval of the Gentiles by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he had to us. He made no difference between us and them; he forgave their sins because they believed. So then, why do you now want to put God to the test by laying a load on the backs of the believers which neither our ancestors nor we ourselves were able to carry? No! We believe and are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they are.” The whole group was silent as they heard Barnabas and Paul report all the miracles and wonders that God had performed through them among the Gentiles. When they had finished speaking, James spoke up: “Listen to me, my friends! Simon has just explained how God first showed his care for the Gentiles by taking from among them a people to belong to him.”

James 2:8-10 (GNT)

You will be doing the right thing if you obey the law of the Kingdom, which is found in the scripture, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” But if you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker. Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of breaking them all.

1

We must confess our sin and start viewing everyone by the content of their heart, not the color of their skin.

1 Samuel 16:7 (GW)

But the LORD told Samuel, “Don’t look at his appearance or how tall he is, because I have rejected him. God does not see as humans see. Humans look at outward appearances, but the LORD looks into the heart.”

2

We must share the gospel with everyone because it’s the only hope of healing racism.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (GW)

So he is our peace. In his body he has made Jewish and non-Jewish people one by breaking down the wall of hostility that kept them apart. He brought an end to the commandments and demands found in Moses’ Teachings so that he could take Jewish and non-Jewish people and create one new humanity in himself. So he made peace. He also brought them back to God in one body by his cross, on which he killed the hostility. He came with the Good News of peace for you who were far away and for those who were near. So Jewish and non-Jewish people can go to the Father in one Spirit.

3

We must make Grace Church an all-nation congregation mirroring our diverse communities, because that’s what Heaven will be.

Revelation 5:9 (TPT)

“Because you were slaughtered for us, you are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals. Your blood was the price paid to redeem us. You purchased us to bring us to God out of every tribe, language, people group, and nation.”

Revelation 7:9-10 (TPT)

After this I looked, and behold, right in front of me I saw a vast multitude of people—an enormous multitude so huge that no one could count—made up of victorious ones from every nation, tribe, people group, and language. They were all in glistening white robes, standing before the throne and before the Lamb with palm branches in their hands. And they shouted out with a passionate voice: “Salvation belongs to our God seated on the throne and to the Lamb!”

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