

**INTRO**

- What is one characteristic/value you admire from an ethnic culture different to yours?

**READ**

Gal 2:11-16

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

In today’s text, we see an example of a confrontation between Paul & Peter around prejudice and racist behaviour toward Gentile Christians. (The distinctions between Jews & Gentiles has a deep theological history and importance in God’s redemptive plan, but often resulted in prejudice & discrimination). This text gives us insight on the subtlety of racism, sin of racism, and salvation from racism.

**SUBTLETY OF RACISM**

Consider Peter: close disciple of Jesus, walked on water, used by God to birth the Church. And here he is, acting racist towards fellow Gentile Christians. This shows how hard it was and still is for the Church and Christians to truly absorb the radical message of the gospel, especially as it relates to issues race and justice.

*Qu: How does this confrontation between Paul & Peter impact you?*

**SIN OF RACISM**

Racism dehumanizes and violates the image of God in another. It’s also a form of idolatry, where we are all trying to establish our own sense of identity, security and significance apart from God. Ethnic and national pride become very powerful drivers of this. Many of us think of racism in its extreme forms (KKK, Nazi Germany, Apartheid), but seeing racism as another form of idolatry makes us all the more susceptible to its power.

*Qu: Does it help to see racism as a form of idolatry and, therefore, we are all susceptible to its power? Why/Why not?*

**SALVATION FROM RACISM**

Notice how Paul confronts Peter by what he doesn’t do: doesn’t shame him or blast his name all over social media! Rather, he appeals to the sin behind the sin: you’ve failed to grasp the good news of Jesus — *“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*” — Gal 3:28

*Qu: In light of all the ways we see today to combat racism, how should the message of Jesus motivate us as Christians to be part of the solution?*

**RESPONSE: REPENTANCE & JUSTICE**

Our response to racism primarily begins with **personal repentance** towards God. (Use the PAUSE acronym to get specific). Then we need a **corporate repentance** where we come to grips with systemic racism: structures that still discriminate, marginalize and disadvantage others.

Finally, true repentance is seen in the works of repentance: **justice**.

He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**,  
and to **walk humbly** with your God?  
— Micah 6:8

**PRAY**

- Be sensitive to individual struggles and needs regarding this topic and offer a time of prayer for one another.
- Pray the Church and our church would take the words of Micah 6:8 to heart and action.

**\*PAUSE & REPENT**

Use the PAUSE acronym to guide your personal repentance:

**Prejudice** — a prejudgment based solely on race that leads to unfair treatment.

**Apathy** — an attitude of indifference toward racial pain and suffering.

**Unforgiveness** — a resistance to extending mercy to those who have offended us.

**Self-Righteousness** — a prideful posture toward those who are at different points in their journey of repentance and reconciliation.

**Ethnic Idolatry** — the belief that one’s own ethnicity or culture is superior to all others.

**FURTHER RESOURCES**

Below are some helpful resources we have curated for you to grow in your understanding of these issues some more (click on the individual resource links).

**Articles:**

- [The Joyful Pursuit of Multiethnic Churches](#)  
— Jemar Tisby
- [I Have Only One Hope for Racial Justice: A God Who Conquered Death](#)  
— Esau McCaulley
- [The Most Diverse Movement in History](#)  
— Rebecca McLaughlin

**Justice & Race Series by Tim Keller:**

- [The Bible & Race](#)
- [The Sin of Racism](#)
- [A Biblical Critique of Secular Justice and Critical Theory](#)
- [Justice in the Bible](#)

**Study Guide:**

- [Race, Injustice and Discipleship](#) — EN Resource by Justin Gray & William Murrell

**Books:**

- [The Color of Compromise](#) — Jemar Tisby & Lecrae
- [United: Captured By God’s Vision for Diversity](#)  
— Trillia Newbell
- [Divided By Faith](#) — Michael Emerson & Christian Smith
- [Reconciling All Things](#) — Emmanuel Katongole & Chris Rice

**Videos:**

- [Biblical Justice](#) — The Bible Project
- [A Theology of Race](#) — Jemar Tisby