

Conversations Message Series
Understanding Racial Tensions
Sunday, December 2, 2017
Adam Donyes

1. How does *racism*, treating another person or group of people indifferently because of their ethnicity, skin color, or nationality, become a belief or habit in the life of a person?

Answer: It is learned. "Racism isn't born, folks. It's taught. I have a two-year old son. You know what he hates? Naps! End of list." Denis Leary.



2. After reading the narrative in Numbers 12, what caused the anger of God to be displayed against Aaron and Miriam?

Answer: Aaron and Miriam judging God's friend, Moses, for taking a Cushite wife, judging her worthiness to be included among the people of God.

3. Adam quoted Ted today, from one of Ted's recent messages: "Christians who don't gamble, or smoke, but are filled with bitterness, resentment, and racism, may be missing the entire point of the Gospel."

What have the WHFC teaching team and church leaders been trying to teach us is the entire point of the Gospel?

Answer: Loving God and loving others as a reflection of who God is (image bearers) and extended that type of kingdom of love and living over the entire earth.

4. What part of Paul's message to the Ephesians about how we are to talk and live speaks to you the most?

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:30-32

5. For what **purpose** did Adam quote Stephen Covey saying, “Listen with the intent to understand, not the intent to reply,” show the video of Gary Civitello calling into CSPAN, and quote Timothy Keller?

Answer: Of all people, Christians ought to lead the way in reflecting a pursuit of understanding each other and expressing unconditional love and empathy. By doing so, we can display who the real people of God are, a race of people who belong to God, a race of every tribe, color, nation, and tongue on the planet. Example: After the Cross a new entity came into existence—**the church** that Jesus Christ promised He would build (Mt 16:18). As a result, there are now three divisions of mankind: Jews, Gentiles and the church. Paul tells us that we are to “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God” (1 Cor:10:32). It is absolutely essential to understand that these three groups exist side by side in today's world. The early Christians were even known as the Third Race (<https://www.seedbed.com/early-church-third-race/>). God is passionate about having a chosen people who reflect his image (the Imago Dei, the image of God) on the earth, in every country, city, town, and neighborhood.

Imago Dei

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9-10

**The Bible makes it clear
there are only 2 races:
those who belong to God
and those who don't.**

19.

**“When you become a Christian,
you are not primarily from Ohio
or Germany or Asia; you are not
primarily Anglo, African-
American, Asian, or Hispanic; you
are not primarily white collar or
blue collar. You are a citizen of
God’s nation.” - Timothy Keller**

20. [Group]

6. Why did Adam share the following examples of racism from history and then share the biblical text from Romans 1:16?

First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out-because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out-because I was not a trade-unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out-because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me-and there was no one left to speak for me." Martin Niemoller (1892-1984), Lutheran Minister and Early Nazi supporter who was left imprisoned for opposing Hitler's regime.

Three historical figures who have done more for black Americans, people of color, than any other: William Wilberforce, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to **everyone** who believes; first to the Jew, then to the Gentile." Romans 1:16

Answer: As Christians, our identity is with Christ, more than culture (heritage, nationalism, patriotism, ancestry); so if the culture collides with the kingdom of God, we choose to obey the gospel of the Kingdom. Christ is inclusive and if another person, regardless of their creed, tongue, color, country, etc., belongs to Christ, they also belong with you, as a fellow member of the family of God. You are spiritual family and kin with any other person who acknowledges Christ as Lord and Savior.