



Part 4: Hot Topic - Racism

Text: Revelation 7:9-10 (various others)

1. Why is it important to understand that racism is complex, and everyone's experience is different? _____

2. What has been your experience with racism? _____

3. The gospel is the answer to racism! Why? _____

4. Read **Genesis 11:1, 4-9**. Why do you think God confused their language and dispersed them? _____

a. This separation of appearances, cultures, and languages has bred a distrust and hatred between people groups because of sin. Why is it important to realize that it is our sinful tendency to mistrust, judge, and despise those different from us? _____

5. Read **Luke 24:47, Matthew 28:18, Romans 1:5, John 17:20-23, and Galatians 3:28**. What do these verses say about God's command to believers? _____

a. These verses not only call us to ignore differences in appearances, cultures, and languages but they call us to celebrate them. What is the difference between ignoring them and celebrating them? _____

6. Read **Acts 6:1-3**. How did the church address racism within the church? _____

a. Why is it important for the church to lead by example by celebrating all people? _____

7. Read **Galatians 2:11-14**. What did Peter, the Jews, and Barnabas do wrong? _____

a. What did Paul mean by “their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel?” _____

b. Even the most spiritual can have lingering racist attitudes. What are some examples of some subtle, lingering, racist attitudes that believers might have? _____

c. What lingering, racist attitudes do you need to get “in step with the truth of the gospel?” _____

8. Read **Revelation 7:9-10**. The end goal for Jesus is bringing ALL his people together in perfect harmony in Heaven. How can this picture of our future in Heaven impact how we see people here today? _____

a. In Part 2: Theocracy vs. Democracy, Pastor Eric highlighted that we (believers) are now a holy nation without a homeland (foreigners here on Earth). How can this help us see and celebrate other people that are different from us? _____

9. In the sermon, Pastor Eric unpacked the history of civil rights in America. He summarized that after 250 years, slavery ended legally in 1865; however, white supremacy mentality/teaching did not. The 13th Amendment created incentives to imprison black people for slave labor and Jim Crow laws perpetuated the oppression of black people. This led to lynching black people in the south, which cause many to flee as refugees to other parts of the nation. This also led to oppressive, systematic neighborhood segregation of black people by Federal, State, and Local government policies.

a. **Matthew 22:35** says, “...*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” How does realizing that all this racist history has had a lasting impact on the black community help us to live out this verse? _____

10. All Christians should agree that we must work against all forms of racism to help those who are hurting. What can you do this week to seek to understand, help, and celebrate those around you who are different than you? _____
