

THE GOSPEL & RACE

SERMON LISTENING GUIDE // DATE: _____

Ephesians 2:11-22 // ¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

The Gospel and Race Ephesians 2:11-22

What does the gospel say about racism?

I. Why does racism exist?

A. Individual problem (v. 11-12, 14b-15a)

B. Communal problem (v. 19-20)

II. What is the solution to racism?

A. Reconciliation to God (v. 13-14a, 16a)

B. A new identity (v. 15b)

III. How should you respond?

A. Communal solidarity (v. 15b; Rom. 5:12-21)

B. Communal confession and repentance (Dan. 9:3-19)

C. Weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15)

APPLICATION GUIDE

1. How have you reacted to the social unrest following the death of George Floyd?
2. How are you challenged by the gospel's definition of the cause of racism? How does it differ from the world's definition?
3. In what ways do you see racism alive in your own heart? How does the concept of communal solidarity challenge the way you view racism?
4. What are some practical ways you can grieve and mourn with our African American brothers and sisters?

MISSIONARY PRAYER // CHELSIE COLEMAN - JUVENILE JUSTICE MINISTRY



Youth for Christ's Juvenile Justice Ministry (JJM) seeks to engage young people as they are met in a variety of institutions (detention centers, probation, correctional facilities, group homes, residential treatment centers and emergency shelters) across the country. These valued relationships are sustained through ongoing involvement as they reenter their communities.

Chelsie Coleman is leading these efforts in the greater Jacksonville community through mobilizing, equipping, and training leaders from local churches to build trauma informed, Christ sharing relationships with young people in the juvenile justice system. Chelsie can be reached at: ccoleman@yfc.net or cell 904.302.3029. Chelsie shared a story of Sarah to show how God is using the ministry.

I first met Sarah when she was 15. She'd experienced horrific trauma at the hands of her father, grandfather, and uncle. Social services removed her from her home, where she bounced around from one foster home to another. Sometimes "helping" systems don't help -- what do our kids do when this happens?

They run. Typically, not toward good things (God things), and this is when Sarah came into the care of the juvenile justice system. When I met Sarah, I knew right away that she was a leader. The other girls looked up to her and followed her everywhere. But there was a lot of hurt. A lot of trauma. A lot of anger. Sarah was constantly getting into fights. She had walls (understandably), but she would always want to talk with me and eventually even started going to Bible study.

I'll never forget the night where she made a profession of faith at a Youth for Christ retreat. I could see her entire demeanor change in that moment. She seemed different. But because of so much trauma, Sarah continued to struggle after that. She aged out of the system and got caught up in an all-girl gang (yes those exist). I was hearing stories about some of the choices she was making from the other girls we knew. Eventually we lost touch.

Fast forward to April of 2020. Sarah is now 22 and getting to mentor other girls as they transition and age out of the system! She is discovering that she is the leader that we saw all those years ago. What I love about Youth for Christ and our Juvenile Justice Ministry is that we stick with kids in lifelong, trauma informed (and Christ sharing) relationships -- no matter how long it takes!

Thanks so much for equipping us to pursue young people who feel given up on. We get to show them this isn't true!

Prayer requests:

- Current events with George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor have hit our kids hard. Please pray for them during this time!
- These current events, along with COVID-19, reveal the need for a ministry like YFC to stand in the gap of justice for youth incarcerated -- we are always in need mentors and financial partners.
- Lots of restrictions with juvenile detention centers due to COVID-19 still in place -- please pray as we navigate this!

COMMUNITY GROUPS

What are they?

The Bible is clear that God has designed life to be lived in dynamic relationships of trust and love. For this reason, Christ Church East also meets weekly in homes throughout the city for food, fellowship, Bible study and prayer. While groups meet weekly, they are not defined by a night of the week or a time on the clock. They are a people increasingly living their lives together and learning how to love one another in gospel community. Currently our groups meet virtually through Zoom.

How do they work?

Groups are open to people in all seasons and walks of life. Each group provides child care so that the adults can focus on study, sharing, and prayer after a time of food and fellowship. On a regular basis, men and women break out separately to address gender specific needs. Typically, our groups take time off during the months of June and July. If you are interested in joining a group, fill out our online connect card (www.christchurcheast.org/connectwithus).

COMMUNITY BIBLE READING // JUNE 8 - 14

Day	Date	Read
Mon	6/8/20	2 Corinthians 8-9, Psalm 55
Tues	6/9/20	2 Corinthians 10-11, Psalm 56
Wed	6/10/20	2 Corinthians 12-13, Psalm 57
Thurs	6/11/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 58
Fri	6/12/20	Catch-up day, Psalm 59
Sat	6/13/20	Galatians 1-2, Psalm 60
Sun	6/14/20	Galatians 3:1-4:20, Psalm 61