

Message Based Questions May 2, 2021

The Great Reversal Part 6 – Pastor Rick

Scriptures: Galatians 2:11-16 NLT; Galatians 6:15 NIV; Galatians 3:26-29 NLT

1. Last week we talked about the Great Reversal and change for us as individuals. Share one example of how you were able to take off the old and put on the new. Review Ephesians 4:22-24.
2. The book of Galatians is a letter encouraging the Jewish and Gentile believers to live together in equality in the church. It is a deeply Gospel-oriented letter addressing primarily racial and social issues and implications. Why did Paul need to confront Peter? (Galatians 2) Place yourself in the scenario. How would you react?
3. Why is the gospel the only hope for reconciliation? What does the gospel do to empower healing and reconciliation? How have you seen the gospel bring peace and love?
4. Read John 17. What does this prayer teach us about God's will for the church? How does it relate to the question of race?
5. How much do you know of the pain and burdens that minorities carry? How does knowing that history help you express empathy, compassion, and burden bearing?
6. What did Jesus do when he encountered someone in pain? Pastor Rick shared: "I am a Christian first and a white man second. I must treat my brother in Christ as an equal with whom God might be using to speak to me." How might this approach lead to an openness and humility that make conversations and learning possible? How have you experienced entering into someone's pain?

NEXT STEPS

Relationships matter to Jesus and therefore must matter to the people of God. How often do you share your table with people who have different cultural backgrounds than you do?

The first churches were all multiracial, multiethnic faith communities! Christians must admit that these extraordinary resources for racial understanding, healing and unity are largely going untapped! (Galatians 3:26-29 NLT) How does our new self that is rooted in Christ's love and work lead to healing? How might the Lord lead you to pursue racial reconciliation?

Pray that the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be realized as *the answer* that can give hope and help to the body of Christ bruised and broken by racism. Pray through John 17 asking for unity in EFC, all churches, and across the Church.