



SHIFT-PART 3: RACISM

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will quite often talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

This week, Celebrate welcomed guests Troy Evans, senior pastor of The Edge Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Tremaine Jackson, Defensive Coordinator of the University of Sioux Falls football team. Pastor Keith quoted David R. Williams: ***“Of all the major institutions in our society, the church is still the most segregated. Americans of different races work together, they play together, they study together, they do entertainment together, but seldom do they pray or worship together.”*** He also quote an article from Outreach magazine: ***“In America today, only 13% are truly multi-ethnic.”***

WHAT EMOTIONS DO YOU FEEL WHEN YOU READ THOSE KIND OF QUOTES?

What does the Bible have to say about racism; and the Body of Christ?

Leviticus 19:33-34; Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 3:11-14

Troy said that racial diversity and racial equity do not happen by accident; it has to be intentional. Troy asked: *“Who’s at your dining room table? Who are you allowing in your personal space? Being intentional means inviting others into our lives to the point that our kids are playing with kids of other ethnic groups. And we can all do that.”*

Tremaine shared *“all we want is a seat at the table and we’ll take it from there. We simply need an opportunity. Give others a chance – me, you or even the person sitting next to you – white, black or green. Just give them an opportunity to have a relationship with you and see what happens.”*

WHAT WOULD IT MEAN TO INVITE SOMEONE TO YOUR TABLE? WHAT CAN YOU DO TO STEP TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE OF A DIFFERENT ETHNICITY?

When you take the initiative to step towards others, you are imitating what?

Matthew 25:34-36; John 6:44; 1 John 3:18

What's Next

- Think Biblically and take steps to remove bigotry or racism from your heart.
- Strive to stay away from what's comfortable and step towards what is uncomfortable.
- Invite someone of different background into your space this week.