

WELCOME DR. MARSHALL AND TIFFANY BONÉY FROM REIGNITE CHURCH!

LET'S TALK...  
"About Race, Racism and Faith"  
October 30, 2016

When the church is silent to a person in crisis,  
it can sound remarkably like silence from God.

"In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends"  
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Only 2.5% of all churches in the U.S. are multi-ethnic

Multi-Ethnic Churches: one ethnic group doesn't make up more than 80% of that church

- 75% of black adults say blacks are treated less fairly than whites by the court system.
- Prison sentences of black men were nearly 20% longer than those of white men for similar crimes
- Black students are 3X's more likely than white students to be suspended for the same infraction.
- 66% of black adults say blacks are treated less fairly than whites when applying for a loan or looking for a job.
- 84% of black adults say blacks are treated less fairly than whites by police.
- Black drivers are 30% more likely to be pulled over than white drivers.

*“If you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and God’s Law condemns you as a lawbreaker.” James 2:9 (TEV)*

*“So why do you judge your brother? And why do you think that you are better than he is? We will all stand before God one day, and he will judge us all.” Romans 14:10 (ICB)*

*“The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance.”*  
1 Corinthians 12:26 (MSG)

*“Peter told them, “You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean... I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.”*  
Acts 10:27-36 (NLT)

**Leadership Tip!**

Doing life together isn't just a byline for Life Groups. It is the way they grow, get stronger and make an impact on their communities.

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**STARTER QUESTION:**

**According to a study of human DNA from around the world; how many races would you guess were defined by science as living today?**

Believe it or not the answer is just one; "the human race". This is because "race" is defined by society and not by science. Accord to science there are no races; only individuals that sometimes are more related to one group than another.

Oddly enough that's the way God sees it too.

**MAIN IDEA:**

The philosophies of race and racism are in direct conflict to God's word.

**Romans 12:16**

***"Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but enjoy the company of the lowly. Do not be conceited". NLT***

**"Race"**- is the classification of humans into groups based on physical traits, ancestry, genetics or social relations, or the relations between them. (Merriam-Webster)

**"Racism"** - the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races. (Merriam-Webster)

**How does the definition of race make you feel?**

Although people have had prejudices against other people since the fall of mankind, the idea to group people into specific classification call "race" only really begun in the mid 1800 when the philosophy of "Humanism" started to take root. When I talk about race it is important to note I am not talking about

ethnic groups, which again they have been around since the time of Noah. I am talking about the idea that you can or should group people by something they have in common. The problem with this idea is that people often have more characteristics that are uncommon than they have in common to a specific group. Race does not account for the individual, only to the classification/identity of the group as a whole. When the idea of race becomes engrained, prejudices can become magnified.

In order to change societies view on race, we have to change our perspective on how we think about people.

Here are some good starting points:

**Genesis 1:27**

***“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them”. ESV***

**Romans 3:22-24**

***“There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus” NIV***

**Have you ever thought about the words “created in the image of God” before?**

**How do these words make you feel? How would you think someone else would react hearing these words possibly for the first time?**

**How hard is it to believe that everyone, even the worst terrorist in the world today is made in the image of God?**

**Why is Romans 3:22-24 important in this context?**

**Did you notice how Paul starts with groups of people, but ends with the individual?**

**How did these verses change the way you think about people?**

**FINAL THOUGHTS:**

Jesus gave us a new commandment in John 13:34 to love one another as He loved us. This commandment is impossible to fulfill if we continue to hold on to racism views. There is simply no place for these philosophies in God’s Church.