

Ready to Respond

What is My Role in Racial Reconciliation ?

Seven Types of People in Race Relations

Racist - hates, bullies and discriminates

Bigot – believes stereotypes, belittles, feels superior

Avoider – uncomfortable around other races, stays uninvolved

Insensitive – not concerned about the hurts of others

Apathetic - doesn't understand and doesn't care

Sensitive – kind, fair, inclusive

Reconciler – active bridge builder and celebrates diversity

2 Corinthians 5:18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...

What is the number one tool for Racial Reconciliation ? **“the Gospel”**

Why? **The gospel is the only thing which can change hearts eternally.**

What is wrong with Racial Prejudice?

It questions **God's creation.**

Acts 17:26-27 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

It is a sign of **ignorance.**

1 John 2:10-11 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

It contradicts **God's commandments**.

Galatians 5:14-15 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

It is a problem of **sin** not **skin**.

James 2:8-9 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

How do we root out racism?

I change the way I **look at** people.

I Samuel 16:7b The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

I change the way I **listen to** people

James 1:19-20 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

Tip #1 : **Listen to their hurt, not just their words.**

Tip #2 : **Learn to say "Tell me more" and "Help my understanding."**

Tip #3 : **Listen respectfully.**

I Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

I change the way I **love** people.

John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

I John 4:19-21 We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

I change the way I **live with** people.

Galatians 3:26-28 So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Additional Study

Monday Romans 14:10, Proverbs 18:13

Tuesday James 3:18, Matthew 5:9

Wednesday James 2:1-13

Thursday I John 4:7-21

Friday Acts 10