

A conversation about race, apathy and what it will take to chart a better course for the future. - Gregg and Kris Brenes with Lamont and Patty Williams

Jesus prayed this and gave His life for this...

"My prayer is...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:20-21

What does God require of us?

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

- **Act justly** – *As followers of Christ, we should be troubled and angry at injustice.*
- **Love mercy** – *There are lots of opportunities to show mercy & compassion, rather than indifference and judgment.*
- **Walk humbly** – *In any conversation we have, to understand different perspectives and experiences, we have to walk humbly.*

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Romans 12:14-16 NKJV

A conversation with Lamont and Patty...

"There are no neighborhoods in heaven!"

What should we do?

- Examine your own heart.
- Invite the presence of God to guide you.
- Begin an honest conversation with someone whose ethnic background is different from yours.
- Make real-world application in real-time when you see injustice.

Let's Connect

As a child, what happened the first time you realized people were different?

Let's Talk About It

If someone in your family was experiencing pain and injustice, you would do everything you could to understand, so with empathy, you could pray for them, support them, stand with them against oppression, and lead them to forgiveness, healing and salvation in Christ. We are part of the body of Christ and are called by God to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God and others. Examining your own heart, inviting the presence of God, beginning a conversation with someone different from you and speaking up when you see injustice are steps toward greater empathy and bringing justice and healing to our nation.

John 17:20-21; Micah 6:8; Amos 5:24; Romans 12:14-16 NKJV; Matthew 9:36; Revelation 7:9

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Talk as a group about your cultural upbringing. What were you exposed to and how did your influences and experiences shape your perspective?
- Read John 17:20-21. Pastor Gregg talked about how racism and prejudice keep us from "being one". Have you experienced racism or prejudice? How did it impact you? How did it shape your view of other cultures?
- Read Micah 6:8. Injustice and racism are sin issues, not skin issues. Why is humility so important for us to have as we engage in the conversation?
- Read Romans 12:14-16. Discuss the conversation Gregg and Kris had with Lamont and Patty. What's in your heart? Are you seeing any indifference, apathy, anger or bitterness that you should bring to the cross? Are there any ethnic/economic prejudices? What will you do with what God is revealing?

Take a Step

- Take some time to search your heart and ask God to reveal cultural prejudices, indifference or apathy so you can bring them to the cross in repentance. What step will you take to listen and learn from someone who is different from you?
- SOAP reading: **Day 1:** Psalm 5, Galatians 1; **Day 2:** Psalm 43, Galatians 2; **Day 3:** Psalm 51; Galatians 3; **Day 4:** Psalm 85, Galatians 4; **Day 5:** Psalm 112, Galatians 5; **Day 6:** Psalm 128, Galatians 6; **Day 7:** Psalm 147, Ephesians 1

Here's My Prayer

- Lord, lead me to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly before you. Give me empathy to weep with those who weep and courage to stand up to injustice.