

Water of Life Community Church

UNITY ACHIEVED

GENESIS 1:26-31; ROMANS 3:21-26; GALATIANS 3:25-29

ICE BREAKERS

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Our thoughts and feelings about race are impacted by our upbringing, but even the best of circumstances cannot correct what Scripture tells us about ourselves and the world we live in: We are broken people living in a broken world. Sinful pride in our hearts corrupts our minds such that we are filled with “all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice . . . envy, murder, strife and deceit” (Romans 1:28-30). Most these sins relate to our relationship with our neighbors. In other words, corrupt thinking affects how we interact with the people around us. Nowhere is this more apparent than in how we think about and relate to others regarding race.

If we hope to take steps toward racial reconciliation, we must acknowledge the sin in our hearts that hinders us from loving one another and recognize that Jesus alone has brought reconciliation and healing to a world broken and fractured by sin.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ GENESIS 1:26-31.

- a. What does it mean to be created in the image of God? How are human beings distinct from the rest of creation?
- b. For what purpose did God create us in His image (see Isaiah 43:7)?
- c. What do these verses tell us about our value or identity as human beings?
- d. What keeps us from acknowledging the image of God in others?
- e. How might our relationships with other people suffer if we do not actively acknowledge that they are made in the image of God?

2. READ ROMANS 3:21-26.

- a. Who does God offer the righteousness of Christ to (vv.22-23)?
- b. What does it mean to “fall short of the glory of God”?

c. Who has fallen short of the glory of God? How should this knowledge influence the way we view ourselves? The way we view others?

d. What motivated God to declare us righteous in His sight?

e. “Justify” is a legal term meaning God declares the sinner not guilty. How should knowing that we have been justified by grace shape the way we think about and interact with people of different ethnicities or cultures than our own?

3. READ GALATIANS 3:25-29.

a. What sorts of things tend to divide the groups of people Paul mentions in verse 28?

b. How, according to Paul, does the gospel change our perspective on those things which divide us?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

GOING DEEPER

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MEMORY VERSE

John 17:22-23

“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

NOTES