

May 22-23, 2021

Title: The Church in the World, Pt. 4: "The Church and Racism" – Ephesians 2:11-22

Big Idea: Be the church – Kill the hostility of racism and share the family privileges.

What in the message stood out to you?

What unanswered questions do you have?

In what ways have you witnessed racism?

1. The cause of racism is alienation from God and others.

Read Ephesians 2:11-12. What does it mean to be alienated from someone? What does it mean to be alienated from God?

In what ways do you think alienation from God and others is the cause of racism?

Read the story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. Why did God confuse people's language and disperse them from one another? How does this help explain the existence of racism in the world?

2. Israel is God's solution for alienation and racism.

Read Genesis 12:1-3. What is God's plan for Abraham and his offspring? What is the desired outcome?

Read Romans 9:4-5 and Ephesians 2:12. What privileges did God give to Israel that He did not give directly to other people? Why do you think He chose one people group to give these privileges to? How does Isaiah 49:6 help you answer?

Read Isaiah 49:6, what does it mean to be a light to the nations? Did ancient Israel live up to this calling? Why or why not?

3. Jesus kills alienation, hostility and racism.

Read Ephesians 2:13-18. Based on these verses, what is Jesus' goal for His church? What does this mean for the church's response to racism?

How did Jesus kill the hostility? In what ways could we imitate and follow Jesus in this?

4. Jesus shares the family privileges of God with Jews and Gentiles alike!

Read Ephesians 2:19-22. What are the family privileges that Jews and Gentiles alike are now invited into? What are some practical responsibilities that come from these privileges?

5. Be the church – the Family of God in unity, love and humility!

Read Ephesians 4:1-5. How can we pursue unity with people of other races? How can we love people of other races? How can we be humble toward people of other races?

Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

Will you pray?

- Oh God, help us and teach us how to truly love one another across racial boundaries.
- Open the eyes of all believers (including my own) to selfish pride and sinful prejudice and grant repentance.
- Give the leadership of the United States (and other governments) wisdom in addressing the issues of racism.

Will you participate?

- Will you intentionally pursue friendships (true fellowship & intimacy) with people from ethnicities different from your own?
- Will you refuse to participate in any kind of racial joking or stereotyping?
- Will you speak up and put an end to any form of racism when you see it?
- Will you refuse to encourage, condone or participate in ungodly responses to racism?
- Will you intentionally take the Gospel of Jesus to people of different ethnicities and different nations – so Jesus can have the diverse church He desires?