

Scriptures this week:

Ephesians 4:11-22

¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. ¹⁷Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²²to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

Black Church, White Church: The Effects of Racism Inside and Outside the Church.

Ephesians 4:11-22

Will Robbins and Todd Chapman - August 1, 2021

Why are we having this conversation?

Who is racist?

Why are people racist?

Why are churches so segregated?

Can we solve racism?

How does treasuring Jesus impact our view of race? Racism?

What can the church be doing to diminish racism?

Notes:

Life Group Discussion Questions

Racism

For the week of August 1, 2021

Getting Started

1. As you look back, what type of experiences have you had cross-culturally and interaction with folks from different racial and ethnic backgrounds?
2. How do you think your experiences have shaped your perspective on race?

Digging into the Text

3. Read Colossians 3:9-17 and respond:
 - What does this passage say about how Christians should regard external differences among people?
 - What are the internal character traits that should compel believers' actions toward all people?
 - How does love 'bind everything together' in harmony?
 - Summarize the main idea of this passage.

Applying It to My Life

4. Assess your attitude toward people who come from a different race or background than you. Do you have any harmful prejudices?
5. What is a step you can take this week to be an agent of reconciliation and promoter of love, especially to people who don't look like you?
6. As a group, how can we be praying for each other to be more compassionate and loving to people of all races and ethnicities?