



## **Disrupting Racism**

Galatians 3:26-28 & 1 Corinthians 12:12-20

07.07.2019

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What it means to be a follower of Jesus is really about being re-parented into the new family of God.

How did your family of origin process anger?

*The real question is how do we do anger in the new family of Jesus?*

How did your family/culture see race, ethnicity, and dominant culture?

How are we to see race and ethnicity and dominant culture in the new family of Jesus?

### **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.

### **1 Corinthians 12:12**

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 12:16-20**

...if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and

we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

“Now the body is not made up of one culture but of many. If the blacks should say to the whites, ‘Because I am not white, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not make it true. The blacks would still be a part of the body whether they vote for the same candidates or not. And if the whites should say, ‘Because I am not black, I do not belong to the body,’ it would not make it true. The whites should still be part of the body whether they clapped their hands and shouted loudly in church or not. It doesn’t mean that they are not filled with the Spirit. If the whole body was tightly structured, where would the sense of spontaneity be? If the whole body was spontaneous, where would the sense of order be? As it is, there are many parts and many cultures, but one body. The Cuban church cannot say to the Haitian church, ‘I don’t need you!’ The Puerto Rican church cannot say to the Mexican church, ‘I don’t need you!’ The Pakistanis cannot say to the Persians, ‘I don’t need you!’ The Japanese cannot say to the Koreans, ‘I don’t need you!’ The suburban church cannot say to the urban church, ‘I don’t need you!’ The city church cannot say to the country church, ‘I don’t need you!’ Jews cannot say to Arabs, ‘I don’t need you!’ Palestinians cannot say to Jews, ‘I don’t need you!’ On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are not to be dismissed or discarded as if they don’t matter. They are God’s special instruments of honor to reveal an aspect of

God that would otherwise not be seen or experienced. There really is no part of the Christian body that is to be dismissed as unimportant. They all matter! If Palestinian Christians suffer, we all suffer. If South African Christians are freed from apartheid, we all rejoice with them. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

- David Anderson, *Gracism: The Art of Inclusion*

### Disrupting Racism

1. You must allow yourself to be disrupted by the Holy Spirit.
2. Know and understand what racism is and where it hides.

- **Stereotype:** a belief that associates a group of people with certain traits
- **Prejudice:** negative feelings toward persons based on their membership in certain groups
- **Discrimination:** behavior directed against persons because of membership in a certain group
- **Racism:** When people in power are prejudiced or discriminate based on race/ethnicity

“Central to our understanding of the sin of racism is our understanding of the image of God and how humanity attempts to usurp God’s creation order. Sin results when human beings attempt to take God’s place in creation. In other words, we make ourselves the standard of reference in the determination of our values and norms. Racism elevates one race as the

standard to which other races should seek to attain and makes one race the ultimate standard of reference.”

- Soong-Chan Rah, *The Next Evangelism*

### Disrupting Racism

1. You must allow yourself to be disrupted by the Holy Spirit.
2. Know and understand what racism is and where it hides.
3. Build up your racial stamina.
4. We must suspend Individualism.

“If we have broken our covenants with God and violated our relationships with one another, the path to reconciliation must begin with the act of confession. The greatest wounds in human history, the greatest injustices, have not happened through the acts of some individual perpetrator, rather through the institutions, systems, philosophies, cultures, religions and governments of mankind. Because of this, we as individuals, are tempted to absolve ourselves of all individual responsibility. Unless somebody identifies themselves with corporate entities, such as the nation of our citizenship, or the subculture of our ancestors, the act of honest confession will never take place. This leaves us in a world of injury and offense in which no corporate sin is ever acknowledged, reconciliation never begins and old hatreds deepen.”

- John Dawson, *Healing America's Wounds*

## Disrupting Racism

1. You must allow yourself to be disrupted by the Holy Spirit.
2. Know and understand what racism is and where it hides.
3. Build up your racial stamina.
4. We must suspend Individualism.
5. Lament.

“I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.”

- Lesslie Newbigin

## **Prayers of the People**

We pray for our country and church— that you would use this season to shape us into a nation and community that embraces more of the values of Your Kingdom.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the leaders of the nations and for all in authority, that they would desire peace above war and generosity above greed, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, for the refugee and immigrant, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Raise up leaders in our government who will be effective advocates for justice and humanizing policies for our citizens, for our immigrants, and for our neighbors.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For the families that have been separated at our borders: we ask for You to move mountains to bring them back together, in Jesus' name - and for Your justice for any wrongdoing or systemic violation of your Imago Dei.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We sit in the tension of what it means to live in the United States - we thank You for the privilege and freedom that living in this country provides, and for the ways we do see the values of Your kingdom present in our society today and in our history as a country. But we also lament the ways that this country has, and continues to participate in and perpetuate systemic evil in the form of racial injustice and oppression.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We remember that this country was built on the defeat, subjugation, and deprivation of those Native to these lands, and we lament the ways that many in these communities still struggle to thrive because of the wrongs that were done to their ancestors by those who founded this nation, and by any policy

still in place that creates an uphill battle for our Native brothers and sisters to thrive in this nation.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We remember that much of the wealth, power, and privilege of this empire was built on the backs of slaves and that many of us today have inherited lives of privilege and comfort - many of us in at least some part because of the ways that our ancestors profited from the domination and enslavement of primarily black men and women in America.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We lament the way that the slave trade in the west robbed the continent of Africa of many of its most able men and women for generations.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We lament the way that the scars of slavery live on today in the ways that black communities are still statistically under-resourced, and that our black sisters and brothers are statistically under-paid and otherwise often disenfranchised compared to their white peers and neighbors.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We lament the ways that people have been and still are treated wrongly because of the color of their skin and country of origin. Make us aware of our own conscious and implicit biases and



empower us to use our privilege to create safety and flourishing for others who do not have some of the same opportunities we have. We repent of the ways we have been complicit.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We recognize the ways that the American church has been active in, indifferent towards, or otherwise complicit in the degradation of your Imago Dei in our nation's minority cultures and people groups. We repent. Make us liberators, protectors, and champions of your Imago Dei in every God-ordained variety and set the American church on fire as a beacon of multicultural restoration for the sake of the world.

*Lord, have mercy.*

We ask you to tear down strongholds of racism in our policy, in our leadership, and in the spiritual realms of this nation.

*Lord, have mercy.*

Tear down strongholds in our own hearts, whether they be implicit biases or apathetic indifference towards these topics - expand our compassion and sew grace in our hearts as we stumble towards Christlikeness in these conversations.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For our hurting world, and for the Unity of the Church as we respond in courage, strength, and compassion, let us pray to the Lord.

*Lord, have mercy.*

For Your Kingdom come and Your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

*Lord, have mercy.*