

NEXT LEVEL RELATIONSHIPS: REJECTING RACISM
GENESIS 1:27, DEUT. 10:17–19, REVELATION 5:9–10

MESSAGE NOTES:

Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study

For Starters: How have the deaths of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbury impacted you? Discuss the quotes by Martin Luther King (*Letters from a Birmingham Jail*, 1963): “*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,*” and Benjamin Franklin: “*Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.*”

The Basics: Read Genesis 1:27 and Psalm 139:13–14. What does the Bible say about every person, regardless of ethnicity, created equally and beautifully in the image of God? How is racism by definition—*prejudice, discrimination, antagonism directed against a person for their ethnicity*—an affront to God’s design for humanity?

Quick-Fire Round

1. Read Leviticus 19:33–34, Deuteronomy 10:17–19, Isaiah 61:1, and Micah 6:8. How are we to treat one another, specifically minorities, immigrants, and those without a voice?
2. Read Matthew 22:37–39 and John 4:7–9. What does it mean to love God and love others? How did Jesus show this love toward the Samaritan woman? How can you?
3. Read Galatians 3:28, Revelation 5:9–10, 7:9–12. What do we learn about the make-up of the church now and in the future? Does this excite you, bother you? Discuss.
4. Read Isaiah 5:20. When we witness evil, why is it important to call it out? What stops you from speaking up? Why must we stay on point and not deflect to other issues?
5. Read Philippians 2:1–4 and Matthew 5:7–8. How can you ask God to check your heart, motives, history, prejudices? What would it *look like* for you to do nothing from selfish ambition, count others more significant than yourself, and look out for the interest of others?
6. Read Proverbs 18:13, 15. On racism and inequality, how can you listen, seek to understand, and be a student not a teacher? What could we learn from those who experience prejudice or racism on a daily basis?

Pray Together (individually or in groups): Read **2 Chronicles 7:14**. Pray for God to reveal your prejudices, ask Him to change your heart, be willing to repent and take action. Ask God to heal our land and bring unity through the Gospel.

Prayer: Thank you that you created every person in your image. Help me see all people the way you do. Show me how to love and treat all people with dignity and respect. I ask that you use me as a catalyst for healing and hope through the power of Christ who lives in me. Amen.