



Sunday, June 14, 2020

## Race, Justice and the Gospel

Message by Dr. Bryan Loritts

Personal Study and Discussion Guide

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Discussion Guide

### A WORD ABOUT THIS WEEK'S STUDY AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is designed to help you go deeper in your study, understanding and life application. It is also designed to help you facilitate meaningful conversations for families, friends, and Life Groups. This week's guide is unique and intentional to help every one of us answer the question, "What would Jesus have me do in response to this time and this message?" Before your study and discussion, watch or listen to the Sunday, June 14, sermon either live or from the sermon archives at [purposechurch.com](http://purposechurch.com). This guide is not designed for you to use all of the questions provided, but rather to select the ones that will be best suited for your specific discussion. As you read the passages and reflect on the message, choose the questions from each section that will help each of you to honestly and openly share your feelings and life experiences and then together encounter the living Word of God. This will allow the Holy Spirit to bring the challenge, encouragement, healing and inspiration He desires.

#### OPEN UP

- When you hear the word "racism," what thoughts and images come to mind?

#### WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU?

- When Bryan Loritts spoke about race, justice and the gospel, what stood out to you most?

#### SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION

##### Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-19

Brian Loritts spoke about the difference between an activist and a reconciler.

**Activist** - someone who is concerned with the "what." They are issue driven.

**Reconciler** - someone who is concerned with the "how." They are people driven.

- How is this distinction helpful for you?
- Which is your more natural first response?

- When it comes to the current racial tensions, have you been responding more as an activist or a reconciler?
- We are called to the ministry of reconciliation, restoring relationships with those who “don’t look like us, think like us, vote like us ...” How do you view your calling to the “ministry of reconciliation” differently after this message?

### **Read Ephesians 2:1-10**

- These 10 verses speak of the extent God was willing to go to reconcile us to Himself. How should these truths shape our hearts and minds when it comes to the extent we are willing to go to reconcile with others.

### **Read Ephesians 2:11-22**

- As a Christian, how can you tear down “dividing walls of hostility” that keep God’s people from experiencing ethnic unity (v. 14)?
- Jesus has “put hostility to death” through the cross, what seeds of hostility, division, or prejudice, do you identify in your own heart? Upbringing? Family? Circle of friends? What can you do to allow Jesus to “put this hostility to death” (v. 16)?
- Jesus has created one new humanity, thus making peace. What practical step can you take this week to live out this “one new humanity” and help to bring peace in this tumultuous time (v. 15)?
- How can you live out your citizenship in God’s kingdom and household with your family? With our church? With our community (19-22)?

## **FURTHER APPLICATION**

- Has any hint of racism been exposed in your heart? How long have you been aware of it? Have you confessed it? Invited Jesus into it?
- During this time of civil unrest, how have you continued to “love your neighbor” in spite of the division that exists due to differing perspectives?
- What needs to change in your lifestyle in order for you to become a reconciler?
- How has this discussion reframed your understanding of discipleship in our homes, church, and world?

## **CHALLENGE**

- Schedule a time to sit with someone of a different cultural or ethnic background who has opposing views to you. Attempt to listen intently to their position without standing in judgement. Take a learner’s posture and seek to understand. Pray together for peace and unity.
- Ask God daily to reveal any racism that may be present in your heart. Do so in humility and invite Him to forgive you and transform your heart.
- Consider anyone that you may have offended recently causing disunity. Initiate reconciliation by reaching out to them and asking for forgiveness.

## **PRAYER**

Who in your life is hurting because of all that is going on? Spend time praying for them now.