

A PATH TO RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

THE UNITY TABLE

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A PATH TO RACIAL RECONCILIATION AND PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGES ONE~EIGHT

Race and Privilege

YOUR THOUGHTS | YOUR REACTIONS | A NOTE FROM HISTORY | YOUR RESPONSE | KIDS TALK

PAGES NINE~SIXTEEN

love has no limits

YOUR THOUGHTS | YOUR REACTIONS | A NOTE FROM HISTORY | YOUR REFLECTIONS YOUR RESPONSE | KIDS TALK

PAGES SEVENTEEN~TWENTY-TWO

The Road to Restoration

VIDEO NOTES | YOUR REFLECTIONS | YOUR RESPONSE | KIDS TALK

PAGES TWENTY-THREE~TWENTY-NINE

Mhen Silence Speaks

SCRIPTURES TO READ | YOUR REACTIONS | YOUR REFLECTIONS | YOUR RESPONSE | KIDS TALK

PAGES THIRTY~THIRTY-SEVEN

Activist versus Reconciler

SCRIPTURES TO READ | VIDEO NOTES | YOUR REFLECTIONS | YOUR RESPONSE | KIDS TALK

AS YOU PREPARE TO SET YOUR UNITY TABLE, THESE THREE IDEAS SHOULD SERVE AS THE FRAMEWORK FOR YOUR TIME AROUND THE TABLE:

The STYLE of the Table – Family Style

The meal could be a potluck at your home, or a guest's home, or even at a restaurant, but find ways to keep everything communal and familial. It might be sharing dishes that are your specialty, part of your family or part of your culture - however you want to frame the meal, but the style of the table should be familial. Initially, it's probably best to keep the group to a size that fits around one table. You may even use food and traditions to spark conversation and learn which things among the group are common and which are unique.

The SUBJECT of the Table – Unity and Understanding

Sometimes it will feel awkward. Sometimes it will feel natural. Press through anyway! This table is about an intentional pursuit of unity by broadening our culture and personal understanding. It's listening, engaging in dialogue and asking questions. This is not a Bible study, political platform or a small group meeting. The actual topics may vary between personal awareness, headlines, work experiences, family life, misconceptions or questions you've always wanted to ask. It may even help to decide on two or three topics to discuss during your time together before you sit down so everyone knows beforehand what might be discussed. Clearly this will require a lot of grace and forgiveness - we might say the wrong things, ask the wrong question, or not give the right answer. Cover this time in prayers. Ask God for his divine wisdom and navigation so the experience is fruitful.

The SPIRIT of the Table – Christ-centered vs Cause-centered

The gospel is the epitome of reconciliation and restoration. This is where we are ultimately trying to point people. This table is not driven by the movement or "cause" of the day. It's driven by the gospel of Christ. When the gospel is fully embraced and lived out, it will compel us to respond to the issues in our culture. Our goal is to establish a lifestyle or cross-ethnic conversations and relationships. Movements will come and go and headlines will change, but the gospel still is the only thing that can change hearts. This table is missional. At the end of the day, we are gently and compassionately asking how these discussions will change the way we live out the gospel. Once we can share what we have learned at the table with others within a gospel framework, we will not identify the gospel as only a soul issue, but also a social issue.

RACE **PRVLEGE**



SCAN TO WATCH

WRITE DOWN HOW YOU WOULD HAVE RESPONDED IF SOMEONE ASKED YOU ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS OR MADE ONE OF THESE COMMENTS BEFORE YOU WATCHED "RACE AND PRIVILEGE":

Boesn't all crime and sin matter? Don't all races and all lives Why don't you react the same way to abortion or child abuse? Why do we keep bringing up the past? I'm tired of talking. Let's take action! I'm not a racist and I'm not privileged. matter?

DO NOTHING FROM SELFISHNESS OR EMPTY CONCEIT, BUT WITH HUMILITY OF MIND REGARD ONE ANOTHER AS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOURSELVES.

PHILIPPIANS 2:3

2

YOUR REACTIONS

DON'T ALL RACES AND ALL LIVES MATTER?

This is absolutely true but there is an insensitivity to this kind of response. When a friend calls and says her child has autism, we don't say," all special needs children matter." We say, "I want to feel your pain where you are."

We have to recognize that all races and all lives matter, however we're in a cultural context that is unique. When we say "black lives matter" we must understand the long-term, systemic, dehumanization of black people.

AREN'T ALL SINS BAD? DOESN'T ALL CRIME MATTER? WHY DON'T WE REACT THE SAME WAY TO ABORTION? WHY DON'T YOU SPEAK AGAINST CHILD ABUSE WITH THE SAME PASSION?

The difference is abortion and child abuse do not create a divide in the church like race issues do.

The church does not unilaterally recognize the harmful effects of slavery and racism today. Therefore, African Americans feel the need to defend the validity of their pain.

WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THIS?

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WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THIS?

WHY DO WE KEEP BRINGING UP THE PAST?

The past really wasn't that long ago. Many of us have parents who lived through the Civil Rights Era where segregation was a way of life.

Like a doctor who must obtain a medical history before they can determine a prognosis, we cannot diagnose our current conditions until we know our history.

It is extremely dangerous and unhealthy to try to patch up a problem today without understanding the relevance of the past.

I'M TIRED OF TALKING, LET'S TAKE ACTION!

Try to give those who are tired some grace.

The constant trauma can take a toll on African Americans.

African Americans feel pain collectively more than most cultures. Every conflict is felt personally.

It may be difficult but African Americans must show grace and continue to forgive as Jesus did.

I'M NOT A RACIST AND I DON'T EXPERIENCE PRIVILEGE. I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING RACIST.

You don't have to individually commit an action to be able to benefit from it.

You don't have to individually commit an action to be able to take some ownership either.

As Americans, we have benefited from the egotism, capitalism and greed of our country. Whether or not we have done it directly, we have benefited from it. When confronted we should not say, "Well, I did not kill anyone overseas!" While that is true, we must still own the benefits we receive as Americans.

WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THIS?

WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THIS?

A NOTE FROM HISTORY

Jim Crow Laws

...any of the laws that enforced racial segregation in the South between the end of Reconstruction in 1877 and the beginning of the civil rights movement in the 1950s.

From the late 1870s, Southern state legislatures passed laws requiring the separation of whites from "persons of color" in public transportation and schools. The segregation principle was extended to parks, cemeteries, theaters and restaurants in an effort to prevent any contact between blacks and whites as equals.

6

Write down the names of three people of a different race that you feel safe talking with about issues of race and discrimination. Pray and look for opportunities to start a healthy dialogue.

Write down 3 ways you will take the initiative to understand someone from a different culture.

Take some time to write down some new things you're learned about the history of ciril rights in America.



Has there been a time when you felt pressured to watch something, listen to something, wear something or act in a certain way in order to be accepted by other kids?

What would you do if most people around you believed something, but you did not believe that it was right?

Give an example of a time you heard someone speak bad about you because of something you cannot control? What did they say? How did it make you feel?

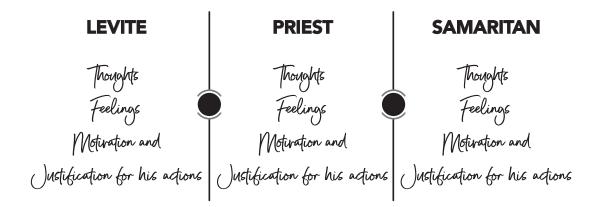
What are different ways you can make God proud as you speak against something you believe is not right or fair?

Why do you think it is important to talk about these things that have already happened?

Have you seen people treated bad because of their race or the color of their skin?



READ THE SCRIPTURES BELOW. Now put yourself in the sandals of each character and describe what each of them were feeling, Thinking and the motivation behind their actions. How would they justify their actions?



³⁰ JESUS REPLIED AND SAID, "A MAN WAS GOING DOWN FROM JERUSALEM TO JERICHO, AND FELL AMONG ROBBERS, AND THEY STRIPPED HIM AND BEAT HIM, AND WENT AWAY LEAVING HIM HALF DEAD.

³¹ AND BY CHANCE A PRIEST WAS GOING DOWN ON THAT ROAD, AND WHEN HE SAW HIM, HE PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

³² LIKEWISE A LEVITE ALSO, WHEN HE CAME TO THE PLACE AND SAW HIM, PASSED BY ON THE OTHER SIDE.

³³ BUT A SAMARITAN, WHO WAS ON A JOURNEY, CAME UPON HIM; AND WHEN HE SAW HIM, HE FELT COMPASSION,

³⁴ AND CAME TO HIM AND BANDAGED UP HIS WOUNDS, POURING OIL AND WINE ON THEM; AND HE PUT HIM ON HIS OWN BEAST, AND BROUGHT HIM TO AN INN AND TOOK CARE OF HIM.

³⁵ ON THE NEXT DAY HE TOOK OUT TWO DENARII AND GAVE THEM TO THE INNKEEPER AND SAID, 'TAKE CARE OF HIM; AND WHATEVER MORE YOU SPEND, WHEN I RETURN I WILL REPAY YOU.'

³⁶ WHICH OF THESE THREE DO YOU THINK PROVED TO BE A NEIGHBOR TO THE MAN WHO FELL INTO THE ROBBERS' HANDS?"

³⁷ AND HE SAID, "THE ONE WHO SHOWED MERCY."

LUKE 10:30-37



YOUR REACTIONS

ARE YOU LIMITED BY

ARE YOU LIMITED BY

MY LOVE IS LIMITED IF:

I don't know who you are You don't look like me You don't make as much money as me You don't go to the same school as me You don't vote like me You wear shirts that are different than mine

A LIMITLESS LOVE IS ABLE TO LOVE:

When it is inconvenient When you are too busy

ARE YOU LIMITED BY

YOUR LOVE IS LIMITED BY COST IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO:

Use your money to care for others

Risk taking a financial loss to help someone in need

A NOTE FROM HISTORY

The only character who Jesus did not identify by race was the victim in this story. Jesus wants us to identify with him.

Many times we fail to assist someone in need because we cannot identify with them.

Place yourself in the sandals of the man who was beaten and robbed.

Describe his thoughts.

Describe his feelings.

Describe his possible response to the Samaritan's actions.



Write a note to God expressing your gratitude for the mercy He showed you.

Think of a time when someone showed you mercy. Recall how you felt and how grateful you were. Think of someone who is in need right now and determine to help them in the same way.

Make a plan for the next time you run into someone in need. Decide ahead of time what you will do. Set aside money, leave early for your appointments and keep your eyes open for those in need.





Do you like helping others? Why or why not?

When is it okay not to help someone?

When is it hard for you to help other people? Why?

Share about a time when you needed help and no one helped you. How did that make you feel?

Tell me about a time when someone helped you. How did it make you feel?

Who are some of the kids who may be "weird" at your school that you do not like to spend time with?

Describe the type of kids you like hanging around the most. Why?

SCAN HERE TO WATCH ESTORATION

VIDEO NOTES

Action is wonderful but must be informed and gospel-centered. I can be passionate and still be principled.

We have to decide, are we just churchgoers or are we really Christ followers?

You're going to find yourself in some tension when what makes you feel like you're part of your community rubs against what you know to be true as a Christian.

> We have to make sure that what may be intended to invite doesn't also incite people (ex. online posts).

If your anger only hurts your heart and not God's heart, you cannot call it righteous.

If you can be angry and not have any hate in your heart, still be fully loving, not sinful, full of grace and compassion and forgiveness and your heart is perfect, only then can you call it righteous anger.

The Good Samaritan shared his wine to disinfect the wound and oil so he could soothe the pain. Sometimes our resources are needed to clean up something and sometimes they're needed because we need to provide comfort.

Are you willing to invite somebody to be in your space even at the risk of being hurt?

YOUR REFLECTIONS

How do you keep i Temper when you g Not understanding	ET WEARY OF PEOPLE				
	HOW DO YOU RESPOND WHEN YOU ARE IN RACIAL CONVERSATIONS THAT DON'T REALLY CONNECT WITH YOU?				
HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE CURIOUS TO ASK QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON RACE OR CULTURE?					
	WHAT THINGS CAN YOU DO TO SHUT THESE TYPES OF QUESTIONS DOWN, AND INSTEAD, ENCOURAGE HEALTHY CONVERSATION?				

Set aside some time to dwell with God, asking Him to search your heart and reveal to you the places that need a change of perspective. Ask Him to help you see people and situations as He sees them.

Think about an uncomfortable connection you should make and agree to start working toward restoration. After searching your own heart for the exact nature of your wrongs in the situation, schedule a time for an open and honest discussion.

Consider the resources you should set aside in order to be of practical help to someone. This could include financial resources as well as your time and influence.



Have you ever had a fight or an argument with a brother, sister or a friend? What did you do? What could you have done differently?

> If you and another person disagree about something, name some things you definitely should not do.

Conflict, like disagreements, can make you angry and frustrated, but conflicts aren't always a bad thing. Can you think of ways having a disagreement can be helpful sometimes?

Have you ever seen a small disagreement turn into a big fight? What do you think made that happen?

Think of a time when you went to someone that you were in a disagreement with and apologized. How did it turn out? How did you feel before the apology? How did you feel after the apology?

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SCRIPTURES TO READ

Isaiah 1:17 (ESV)

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Zechariah 7:9-10 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.

Proverb 31:8-9 (ESV)

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Jeremiah 22:3 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

Micah 6:8 (ESV)

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Matthew 7:12 (ESV)

So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

YOUR REACTIONS

EXCERPT FROM THE LETTER

And every day, we woke up and answered the emails and gotten on the Zoom calls. We've showed up with a smile and put the pain and fear behind us. We've swallowed the rage while responding to our bosses and offered the assistance and worked twice as hard for half as much — because that's all we know how to do.

But here's a newsflash for all the white people unaware of this fact: your Black colleagues may seem okay right now, but chances are they're not. So while you navigate this pandemic which has ravaged our way of life — and prematurely taken the lives of so many no matter what race — acknowledge that burden is falling on your Black colleagues disproportionately. And know that they'll never show it. They've learned to navigate their worlds too well for that.

And although we were told the degrees and the jobs and the accomplishments would somehow protect us from being treated like second-class citizens; although we were made to believe that working hard and contributing to society would mean society would treat us like human beings, we've learned the painful truth — that's a lie.

> Mhich one of these quotes was hardest for you to hear? Mhy? Mhich one resonates with you the most? Mhy?

YOUR REFLECTIONS

	AFTER YOU LISTENED TO THIS LETTER, HOW DID IT MAKE YOU FEEL? WERE YOU ANGERED, SADDENED, UNCOMFORTABLE, GUILTY OR SURPRISED? WHY?				HOW IS HEARING AN OPEN LETTER LIKE THIS HELPFUL TO YOU? HOW DID THIS LETTER HELP YOU SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY?			
	OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS, WHAT HAS BEEN THE HARDEST THING FOR YOU IN REGARDS TO SOCIAL INJUSTICE?					DURING THE PANDEMIC HAS IT BEEN EASIER OR HARDER TO FEEL EMPATHY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE IT WORSE THAN YOU?		
	WHAT FRUSTRATES YOU THE MOST ABOUT ALL THAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?				WHAT IS THE PROPER RESPONSE?			
	HOW DO YOU KEEP FROM STUFFING YOUR Emotions inside until you explode or Sounding off so regularly that you ar Labeled a complainer?			EXPLODE OR That you are			ELATIONS IN AMERICA TTER OR WORSE?	

Write your own letter expressing how you feel. Do not give it to anyone. Instead, turn it into a prayer back to God.

Take a day to meditate quietly. Shut down all media outlets and give yourself some time to process,



During a previous difficult or hard time, what have you learned? What have you learned about yourself? What have you learned about others?

What have you seen or heard in the news or online that does not make sense to you? How do you feel about this? Is there anything that scares you?

What are your friends saying?

Who is right and who is wrong in all of this?

What do you think we should do?



SCRIPTURES TO READ

Revelation 5:9

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Revelation 7:9

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

Psalm 139:13-14

 ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

2 Corinthians 5:18

Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

VIDEO NOTES

PSALM 139 SAYS THAT I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE...NOT JUST MY SPIRIT, NOT JUST MY SOUL, BUT ALSO MY SKIN AND MY ETHNICITY.

ETHNICITY IS NOT A PART OF THE FALL. ETHNICITY IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SATAN CONJURED UP. IT ACTUALLY PREDATES THE FALL OF MAN.

IN REVELATION CHAPTERS 5 AND 7, JOHN SAYS HE LOOKED UP INTO HEAVEN AND SAW PEOPLE FROM EVERY NATION, EVERY TRIBE AND EVERY TONGUE. HOW DOES HE KNOW DIFFERENCES AMONG PEOPLE GROUPS UNLESS HE LITERALLY AND PHYSICALLY SEES DIFFERENCES IN COLOR?

GOD DOES NOT WANT ME TO ERADICATE MY ETHNICITY.

GOD IS NOT COLORBLIND NOR DOES HE WANT ME TO BE COLORBLIND.

IN 2ND CORINTHIANS CHAPTER 5 THE APOSTLE PAUL SAYS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US "THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION."

YOUR NOTES

THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION IS BOTH VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST SHOULD BE A PLACE WHERE WE CAN HAVE HONEST, REAL CONVERSATIONS AND NOT SETTLE FOR A CHEAP RECONCILIATION THAT GLOSSES OVER OUR PAIN.

ACTIVISTS AND RECONCILERS ARE DIFFERENT. ACTIVISTS ARE ISSUE DRIVEN AND CARE ONLY ABOUT "THE WHAT." RECONCILERS ARE PEOPLE DRIVEN AND WE CARE ABOUT THE "WHAT" AND THE "HOW."

IF THERE'S GOING TO BE AUTHENTIC RECONCILIATION BETWEEN PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT ETHNICALLY, THEY MUST LEARN TO SPEAK THE TRUTH TO ONE ANOTHER.

RECONCILIATION IS COSTLY. IT MAY MEAN SITTING AND HEARING HARD THINGS.

PART OF THE COST OF RECONCILIATION IS FORGIVENESS.



Make a list of some of the things that you enjoy about other cultures that are different than your own.

Take a free CQ test online to see your "Cultural Quotient" which measures your cultural intelligence. How did you do? Mhat surprised you the most?

Make a plan to improve your C() (cultural quotient). Read about the history of other cultures, watch the news from other countries, have dinner with friends or colleagues from other cultures, eat at culturally diverse restaurants.



What does it mean to be fearfully and wonderfully made?

What do you like the most about the way God made you?

Why do you think God made people to be so different from each other? Why is this a good thing?

Do you know what the Bible says about our ethnicity in heaven? Why do you think God would want us to keep our ethnicity when we get to heaven?

How can we help others understand that diversity is a good thing?



The Unity Table is a five-part video series to help encourage friends and families to have the necessary conversations around the table. Use this discussion guide to help navigate while watching each video (QR code to each video provided) to help facilitate inward reflection and outward conversations with those around you.

Part ()ne

RACE AND PRIVILEGE

Dart Two

LOVE HAS NO LIMITS

Part Three

THE ROAD TO RESTORATION

Part Four

WHEN SILENCE SPEAKS

Part Fire

ACTIVIST VERSUS RECONCILER

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