

COUNTER FOLLOWING JESUS IN A CANCEL CULTURE CULTURE

Reconciling Racism
WEEK FOUR

SERIES BIG IDEA:

Jesus and scripture direct Christ-followers to live counter to culture, not conform to it.

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)

How do we see and treat people who are completely unlike us?

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

God created all humanity in His image.

⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

James 2:8-9 (NIV)

It is a sin to disregard the image of God in someone by mistreating or ignoring someone according to their color, culture, or status.

²⁵On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" ²⁷He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." ²⁹But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Luke 10:25-29 (NIV)

There is a cultural temptation to justify who we dislike.

³⁰In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³²So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" ³⁷The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Luke 10:30-37 (NIV)

I am to be the neighbor by showing compassion to the one who suffers injustice.

³⁴"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:34-35 (NIV)

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

There is no racism where there is love.

COUNTER CULTURE

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When I see all others through the lens of how Jesus sees and loves me, I will love all others selflessly.

Ephesians 2:3-22 (NIV)

- Jesus' suffering served justice on the sins of all humanity.
- Trusting in Jesus' measure of justice empowers me to have the strength and grace to forgive those who sin against me.
- Jesus did the perfect work of reconciliation to bring all of us into one new humanity.

Begin with prayer.

Listen to the story of someone unlike you.

Eat together.

Serve them and have them serve you.

Share in the story of Jesus.



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TEACHING SUMMARY:

"When you see as Jesus sees, you will love as Jesus loves."

~ Kasey Robinson

There is no doubt that racism is a part of our world because racism is sin.

It is a problem that many people want to ignore but as Christ followers we are not called to ignore. We are called to combat in the way Jesus led and that is with love.

1 Peter 2:11 tells us to abstain from sinful desires which wage war against our soul. Sin has engaged us in battle and the only way we can fight back is with the antithesis of sinful desires...the love of Christ.

So while, until Jesus returns, sin like racism will never be done away with we can fight it in ourselves and wage war against it in love in the world around us.

So take time to ask Christ to change the way you see so you know where to selflessly love and engage in the lives of those who suffer injustice. Ask Jesus to let you see like He sees so you can love like He loves.

TALK IT OVER:

Do you ever struggle with stereotyping a group of people or have you been the recipient of such treatment?

Do you believe that Jesus can lead you to see as He sees everyone, as a temple or potential temple of God's Spirit? Why or why not?

What about your life would change if you saw everyone as made in the image of God and as a potential temple of God?

What is one next step you can take today?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1) Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:13-15

Day 2) Ephesians 4:20-25

Day 3) John 3:16-18; John 5:24; John 11:25-26

Day 4) Acts 13:38-39; Romans 1:14-17

Day 5) Romans 10:9-13; Galatians 5:13-14

Day 6) Colossians 3:9-14