



Everyone has an opinion about race relations, and most are willing to share it. Why shouldn't followers of Jesus join the conversation? God's Word, Jesus' example, the Spirit's leading—we have a lot to bring to the table. This series is intended to help Christians think, live, and speak a better word when the talk is about race.

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Last week we prayed "God, what do you want to say to me?" during this series. Did you receive any specific revelation from the Lord you would care to share with the group?

2 When describing the church of his youth, Rick said, "The problem was deeper than the presence of racism; it was the absence of the gospel." How do you interpret that assessment? Agree or disagree, and why?

3 The NT bears witness to the multi-ethnic church. Rick contends that **God does not want separate but equal** churches, yet most churches in America are mono-racial. Why is that? Is that always a bad thing? When is it clearly a bad thing?

4 Read Ephesians 2:1-9. Paul insists that **God's grace is the only way to be saved**. What does this truth have to do with the issue of racism?

5 Read Ephesians 2:10-22. Paul argues that **the cross goes both ways**. Jesus' death has vertical and horizontal implications. On what basis does he make that claim? How is reconciliation more than integration? What "walls of hostility" does the church need to address today?

6 Read Ephesians 3:1-11. **Our unity is the way God displays His wisdom**. How does the multi-ethnic church do this, and why does it matter?

7 Read Ephesians 3:14-21. Satan will always oppose the church God wants to see. (See Ephesians 6:10f) The church **must choose the way of Spirit-empowered love**. What does this look like, and how do we receive the divine power to do it?

8 Our prayer this week is to be a church that embraces the whole gospel. Spend some time asking God to help us be a church that preaches the cross.

