



Biblical Justice

Week 2: Building Bridges

Summary

What would it look like for real racial reconciliation to happen in our lifetime? What does racial reconciliation even mean? How does racial reconciliation demonstrate what Christ has done for the Church? Why must society see the Church leading the way as it relates to reconciliation? This lesson looks at the work of building bridges toward racial reconciliation.

Teacher: Ryan Fair, executive director, New Hope Church, New Hope, MN

Discussion Questions

1. What is the connection between the love of God and racial reconciliation in the body of Christ?
2. Why does the process of racial reconciliation begin with awareness?
3. Why do we sometimes try to suppress historical truths? What motivation might be at work when we avoid engaging with truth?
4. Do you see yourself as someone engaged in the battle for reconciliation? Why or why not?
5. What are you fearful of as it related to the discussion of biblical reconciliation?
 - a. What are your own personal heart issues that need to be placed on the altar in the area of reconciliation?
6. What is lament and why is it such a lost practice among believers today?
 - a. How is reconciliation linked to acknowledgement and lament?
7. Reflect on Ezra 9:5-8. Why was Ezra ashamed and disgraced for an act he wasn't guilty of?
 - a. What historical guilt was Ezra recalling in verse 7?
8. How does your cultural background affect the way you process shame and guilt?
 - a. What purpose can communal shame and guilt serve as they relate to redemption and restoration?

9. An African Proverb suggests that people seem like monsters when we view them from a distance, but they can actually become friends if we get closer in proximity. Can you share a personal experience that has demonstrated this?

10. What are some positive signs you've observed that confirm that racial reconciliation is possible?

Resources

There are three suggested resources for this week. The first is Dr. John Perkins' book *One Blood: Parting Words to the Church on Race and Love*. It can be found on [Amazon](#).

The second resource is a book by Latasha Morrison entitled *Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation*. It can also be found on [Amazon](#).

Our final resource is the complete version of the interview that Pastor Brian conducted with Darcie Payne and Sylvia Blackmon-Roberts. You can watch the entire interview here: https://youtu.be/9ldQnMX_GPw.

Next Steps

Looking for ways to get involved in the work of racial reconciliation. One way that you might do so is to become involved in praying for racial reconciliation. If you would like to begin or be part of a group that is praying for racial reconciliation email prayer@wooddale.org.

A second way is to get "proximate" with people who look different than you. This week start a conversation with someone of a different ethnicity than you. Invite them over to dinner. Don't entertain? Then, go to dinner together. Support a local minority-owned business. Ask questions. Listen. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal if there are some areas that you need to repent of. Build friendships. You'll be blessed and maybe even forever changed because of leaning into new relationships.

Next Week

Our speaker is Dr. Chris Williamson, Pastor of Strong Tower Bible Church in Nashville, TN. He will be talking about what it means to be one but not the same. You won't want to miss this powerful week.