



SOUL DETOX

ALLOWING YOUR HEART
TO CATCH UP
WITH YOUR LIFE

Diversity is the range of human differences including, but not limited to, race; ethnicity; gender; gender identity; sexual orientation; age; social class; physical ability or attributes; religious or ethical values system; national origin; and political beliefs.

Inclusion is involvement and empowerment, where the inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognized. An inclusive church promotes and sustains a sense of belonging; it values and practices respect for the gender, talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of living of its members.



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How do we understand the problem
of racism and prejudice and how
can we overcome it?



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“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth...’”

Revelation 5:9–10

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Let's Talk About the Problem

a) The Definition of the Problem



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Racism: prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized; the belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.

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Prejudice: a shortened version of pre-judging someone. I'm making a judgment call without weighing all the available evidence first.



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“Prejudice is a great timesaver because it enables you to form an opinion without bothering to get the facts.”



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Privilege: Having privilege does not mean that an individual is immune to life's hardships, but it does mean having an unearned benefit or advantage one receives in society by nature of their identity. Examples of types of identity that can afford someone privilege include: race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, country of origin, language, and/or ability.

Let's Talk About the Problem

- a) The Definition of the Problem
- b) The Source of the Problem**

The roots of racism and prejudice run deeper than deranged shooters, certain corrupt cops, lack of education on the issue, or bad upbringing. The roots run as deep as the human heart itself.



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Sin distorts the way we view and treat people who are different than us and it causes us to build up walls of division around us. It causes distortions that lead to divisions.



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Let's Talk About the Solution



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The solution to overcoming racism and prejudice that the Bible presents to us is twofold:

- 1) It's recovering the truth that every person is created in the image of God and worthy of our deepest respect.
- 2) Receiving the truth that every person is equally broken before God but can be forgiven and remade through the cross of Christ.

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Let's Talk About the Solution

a) The Image of God

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I'm talking here about the radical view of evolution that cuts God clear out of the equation and suggests that some races have developed further than others. This teaching is in direct contradiction with the biblical teaching on race.

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“God made from one man every
nation of mankind.”

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Every person has intrinsic value because you and I have been personally designed by the Maker of the stars! Not only are we all made in the same image, but we all come from the same place—we've all come from Adam.



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Every person I pass on the streets or in the stores, each and every one of them is an image bearer of God and my brother and sister in a shared humanity.



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Let's Talk About the Solution

a) The Image of God

b) The Cross of Christ



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*“Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white;
They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.”*



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“By His blood He ransomed people for God.”



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The cross of Christ has broken down the walls of hostility between Jews and Gentiles and all the other racial and ethnic barriers in the world. The death of racism is found in the death of Christ. The blood of Jesus transcends the bloodlines of humanity.



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We have to see that this kingdom is bigger than you think. God's kingdom is a society with the greatest sense of unity within the greatest possible diversity imaginable.



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