

Dear All: Thank you all for being part of this study. Here is the link to the website I mentioned during our study. This website has a great number of resources for further study on the subject of Race and Racism: <https://www.racepowerofanillusion.org/>.

Enclosed please find a copy of the Guiding Principles for our conversations and the Biblical texts on Race. In the weeks to come, I'll share the videos we are going to watch ahead of time so that you can watch it at your leisure, and we do not have to spend time during our sessions. This way we can spend more time in conversation.

[The Bible on Race](#)
[GCORR-GuidingPrinciples](#)

I pray that we can all grow together as we discussed this challenging issue that is impacting our lives, communities, our country, and the world.

Just for your benefit, this is the agenda we are going to follow for our study in the weeks ahead:

Starting on: September 2 - September 30 at 7:30 pm

1. Race as an ideological construct
2. History of Racist Ideology - Please watch the video for next week: *Segregated by Design* - <https://vimeo.com/328684375>
3. Racism and White Privilege in American History
4. Racism and Us - Moving Forward

The Bible on Race (12 passages)

Genesis 1:27

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Leviticus 19:33-34

33 “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 10:17

“For the LORD your God is the God of gods and the Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God who does not show partiality nor take a bribe.”

Malachi 2:10

“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?”

John 13:34

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

Acts 10:28

“And he said to them, ‘You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.’”

Acts 10:34-35

“God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.”

Acts 17:26

“And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth.”

Romans 10:12-13

“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Galatians 3:28

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Colossians 3:11

“Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”

Revelation 5:9-10

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.’”

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Religion and Race offers the following guiding principles for those who undertake this study:

- 1. 'Race' is not the problem; racism is.** In recent decades, as people of color have embraced notions of cultural identity and pride and pride in their heritage, some white people have lamented that it is these distinctions that cause harmful division. This is false. Celebrating who we are, as God's creation, is an act of thanks and God created us all in the divine image and celebrated our diversity at Pentecost. Differences are NOT the problem; rather, it is the human sin of using those differences to assign value to one race over others and institutionalizing those values that has given birth to racism.
- 2. Race and racism are real and impact every aspect of society.** While God created all humans in God's divine image, our history as a people is that we have seized upon physical and cultural differences and misused them to divide the human family. The impact has been lasting and systemic: people were enslaved, people were conquered and their land stolen, people were and are murdered, social policies did and do still favor some groups while penalizing others—all based on notions of race.
- 3. Followers of Jesus Christ have a responsibility to resist racism.** Resisting racism gives us the opportunity, not only to follow God's call to work for justice, but also to live into who we proclaim we are. Our identity is wrapped up in God's character of always and eternally standing on the side of those who are oppressed. We resist racism because God created us and called us to tear down all structures and expressions of injustice, and we are those who proclaim to be the earthly hands and feet of the same God.
- 4. We seek to take responsibility, not give in to guilt or shame.** In acknowledging and pledging to battle racism, the goal is to raise awareness and to equip all people—especially white people—to become God's justice workers. There is no escaping our history of institutional racism; however, we have the opportunity to forge a new path with God to claim our moral responsibility to do the right thing.
- 5. Discussing race and racism may feel intimidating, but you CAN do it.** Each one of us has a stake in being part of God's reign on earth and in ensuring that all Christians are reliable, credible witnesses of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are at our most reliable and effective as the community of faith as we battle the forces that cause pain, division and death. Racism is one of those forces, but it is difficult for us to discuss. Many white people, in particular, are taught to ignore its reality, while people of color are raised to believe that the fight is theirs alone. We fear one another's anger and pain, we fear our own inadequacies for facing tough topics, and we may believe that racism is just too big, too complicated, and too fraught with emotional landmines. We may not all enter this work from the same place. Still, we believe that people of Christian faith are ready to dismantle racism once and for all, so that our collective work of building God's justice and God's peaceable kin-dom may bear fruit in a world that needs God so much.

ONLINE COURSE

You Are Here: First Steps for White Christians on Race and Racism



RELIGION & RACE
The United Methodist Church

www.gcorr.org