

**What Does The Bible Say About Racism?
I Have Questions - Part 3
June 6-7, 2020
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love & Pastor Steve Tanner**

Key Verse:

“The man answered, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.’ And, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. ‘Right!’ Jesus told him. ‘Do this and you will live!’ The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’”
Luke 10:27-29 (p.792)

“For God does not show favoritism.”
Romans 2:11 (p.858)

- **Racism Is Not A Skin Issue, It’s A Sin Issue.**

“Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him.”
Luke 10:33-34 (p.792)

“But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law.”
James 2:9 (p.931)

Three Personal Challenges:

1. Search My Own Heart. (Prejudging) preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”
Psalms 139:23-24 (p.477)

2. Seek to Understand Others.

“Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.”
Proverbs 18:2 (p.493)

3. Love Those Different from Me.

“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, neither slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.”
Galatians 3:28 (p.892)

“Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”
Romans 10:12-13 (p.864)

Next Step: _____ I will pray daily: *“Dear God, please help me to always be willing to walk across the street to share Your love.”*



Discussion Guide from the Weekend Talk

From the Weekend Talk of June 6-7, 2020

I Have Questions – Part 3: What Does the Bible Say About Racism?

ONE VOICE

Use this Discussion Guide to dig deeper into the principles from the weekend talk. Our Life Groups will use them, but we encourage you to discuss them with your family, or over the phone or online with friends.

Yes, our Life Groups continue to meet, ONLINE! Life Groups use these questions to go deeper into what we talked about this weekend. Dig into them so you will be ready for the discussion at your Life Group. Please let us know if you would like to join a group. We are also looking for opportunities to begin NEW ONLINE Groups.

Conversation Starters

- In what kind of racial environment did you grow up? Would you call it healthy? Clueless? Troubled? Tense? Or some other descriptor?
- Have you ever witnessed racism first-hand?
- What emotions did you feel as you witnessed recent examples of racial injustice in our nation, state, and city? How about emotions experienced when seeing the ensuing protests and riots?

Quick Review

- Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out or maybe even confused you?

Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend’s Talk Notes.

- This week Pastors Jeff Love and Steve Tanner highlighted One Thing to remember from this Talk:
“Racism Is Not A Skin Issue, It’s A Sin Issue.”
- Read Luke 10:25-37 (p.792*), Romans 2:11 (p.858*) and James 2:1-9 (p.930*)
 - Why did the lawyer (expert in religious law) ask Jesus his two questions?
 - Why do you think Jesus answered Question #1 with another question?
 - The Parable of the Good Samaritan is very well known. What aspects of it have stood out to you?
 - Why is the parable relevant to a discussion about racism?

- Have you ever been pre-judged? Have you ever been guilty of prejudice?

Jeff and Steve discussed **Three Personal Challenges** we can embrace:

(1) Search My Own Heart. (Psalm 139:1, 23-24 (p.477*))

- How does it make you feel to ask God to “search your heart”?
- When have you had a “change of heart” about someone (or a group of people)? What was the catalyst for the change?

(2) Seek to Understand Others. (Proverbs 18:2 (p.493*))

- Is it OK to have opinions? According to this verse, when do opinions become a problem?
- Have you ever felt misunderstood? How did that make you feel?
- What are some ways that you can seek to better understand others?

(3) Love Those Different from Me. (Galatians 3:26-29 (p.892*) and Romans 10:12-13 (p.864*))

- Growing up, did you have friendships with people of different races? Was anything challenging about those friendships? If so, what? What did you learn from the experience?
- Steve talked about Keisha Thomas and the KKK rally in Ann Arbor, MI in 1996.
 - Have you ever stood up for, or done a favor for, someone who didn’t deserve it?
- Talk about some ideas for “little things” that you can do every day to help to love people who are different from you.

Digging Deeper

Read Galatians 5:13-18 (p.893*).

- To whom does this passage apply?
- What does it mean to live in freedom? What warning does Paul give us about this freedom?
- For what SHOULD we use our freedom?
- How could living by the principles of this passage help race relations?

Regarding racism:

- Is there a right way for us to respond as followers of Jesus? How do we respond as individuals? As a group?
- How does what the apostle Paul said to the Galatians sit with you right now?

Next Step

- **My Next Step:** ____ I will pray daily: *“Dear God, please help me to always be willing to walk across the street to share Your love.”*

Pray

- Pray now for those in leadership in our country, state, community and church. Pray for unity and community in these unusual times. Pray that the people experiencing church online would also engage in deeper ways with Jesus and His Church.

This Weekend

This weekend we continue our Talk Series: ***I've Got Questions*** as we dig into some challenging questions many are asking. This Week: *Why Does a Good God Allow a World Like This?* Check it out and see! And invite someone to experience it with you in an online watch party! (If you have no idea what that means, it's something you can easily do while watching our live service on Facebook. We can help you. Just ask!)

We continue to be Alive Church *Online* through our various channels and platforms: alivechurch.com; Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Roku, and Apple TV. Invite your friends! Share our posts! Let's get more and more people connected through Alive Church Online!

All of these notes are also in our App. To get our FREE App just text "ALIVEAZ APP" to this number: 77977 and follow the instructions. If you need help, we'll help you!

** The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one.*