



## Part 8: Racism

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### Fred's Story

Fred's story tells us why it's important for the church to talk about race and racism in our world:

His experience has been the same inside the church as outside the church.

**Racism creates woundedness that we must respond to as the body of Christ, because those wounds appear at the core of the identity God creates us with.**

And because God created it, it is sacred ground.

### Peter's Story with Cornelius *Acts 10:9-16, 27-28*

<sup>9</sup> About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. <sup>10</sup> He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

<sup>11</sup> He saw heaven opened and something like a large sheet being let down to earth by its four corners. <sup>12</sup> It contained all kinds of four-footed animals, as well as reptiles and birds. <sup>13</sup> Then a voice told him, "Get up, Peter. Kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup> "Surely not, Lord!" Peter replied. "I have never eaten anything impure or unclean."

<sup>15</sup> The voice spoke to him a second time, "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

<sup>16</sup> This happened three times, and immediately the sheet was taken back to heaven.

<sup>27</sup> While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. <sup>28</sup> He said to them, "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean."

**Peter models how to participate in Jesus' restoration of the world when it comes to overcoming racism and racial tension:**

### Restorative Prayer *Acts 10:9-16; Colossians 3:1-4*

**It was through prayer that Peter could see Jesus.**

Let us ask to see Jesus' vision for restoration!

Let us pray to be transformed so that Jesus may prepare us to restore.

**Restorative Thought** *Acts 10:27-28; Romans 12:2; Psalm 139:23-24*

**Peter's beliefs had to change so he could restore the world with Jesus.**

Will you ask God to show you the thoughts, beliefs and biases that you have that are offensive to him? And will you ask him to change you?

**Restorative Relationship** *Acts 10:24-48*

**Peter was changed so he could bring Jesus to all people.**

Peter earned an invitation in to sacred ground.

Jesus gave new life to Cornelius through relationship with Peter.

**Restorative relationship means:**

Listening to understand, not to respond.

Practicing forgiveness and asking for grace.

Honoring people always beats being right.

**CTK, let this be our desire today:**

to be people who pray for restoration of our world,  
who fix our minds on restorative thoughts,  
and who seek to restore unity in God's people  
through loving each other just like Jesus does.

"It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites!

It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.

– Acts 10: 34-36 (*The Message*)

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Have you ever had any nicknames? What were they, how did you get them?
- 2) Do you remember any kids growing up who were teased or bullied because of their race?
- 3) Are there areas in your life you've seen tension around race spill over in ways that have caused division? Tell us about that.
- 4) How can we pray for you as you examine your own heart and mind with God regarding race, racism, and how to restore Jesus' people?