

# TABOO 2

BREAKING THE SILENCE ON MORE TOUGH TOPICS

Part 5: Racism | October 14-15, 2017

Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

## **A personal question from God to me:**

Is there any prejudice in your heart?

Racism, prejudice, discrimination, or segregation in any form is evil and completely antithetical to the heart and gospel of Jesus.

The God of the Bible is not color-blind, but currently and historically colorful!

### **Heaven is colorful**

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

- Revelation 7:9-10

### **The original church of Jesus was colorful**

<sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven... Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, <sup>10</sup> Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome <sup>11</sup> (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs...

<sup>17</sup> In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people... <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it... <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. - Acts 2:5, 9-11, 17, 32, 41

### **The Great Commission of Jesus is colorful**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." - Acts 1:8

### **The ministry of Jesus was colorful**

When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) - John 4:7-8

### **Jesus himself is colorful**

Jesus was a dark-skinned, Middle Eastern, Jewish man

### **The gospel of Jesus is intentionally colorful**

As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” – Romans 10:11-13

...God does not show favoritism, but accepts men from every nation who fear him, and do what is right. – Acts 10:34b-35

### **The modern church of Jesus is colorful**

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise. – Galatians 3:26-29

### **The biblical history of mankind is colorful**

From one man, he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determines the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. – Acts 17:26

### **God’s creation is colorful**

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them. – Genesis 1:27

**To answer the original question, open your heart; confess the sin; refuse to simplify; seek to understand; humble yourself; be obedient to Romans 15:7; ask for forgiveness; be the answer to Jesus’ prayer in John 17:21-23.**

### **Next Steps**

Read Psalm 139:23-24 and James 3:6-9. As you ponder these words, ask God to bring to mind anything in you that “should not be so,” especially as it relates to how you think, talk about, or act toward people of other races. Then ask him to empower you with his holy spirit to make it right. This is a step you can take over and over, allowing God to peel back layers one at a time.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What is your favorite color? Why?
- 2) Have you ever experienced racism? What happened?
- 3) How did you answer the first question in the outline? Did you answer it differently after the message?
- 4) In what practical way(s) can you embrace your role as an ambassador of reconciliation, both spiritually and socially?
- 5) Read John 17:21-23. How can you be the answer to Jesus’ prayer today?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?