

(NEW) NORMAL

Big Idea

Pastor Curt – Part 4

The recent death of George Floyd ignited an outcry against racism in this country and around the world. Most of us have blind spots causing us to not see our racism, our bias, our discrimination. We think and speak in terms of “them” and “us” as if there are only two groups, two options, two sides. But there is a 3rd option. Part 4 of the **New Normal** series is about **Unity** instead of racism, bias, and discrimination placing a priceless (great) value on every single person because every single person is made in the image of God and is loved by God. Pastor Curt takes an example from the Bible to help us recognize racism, explains how we have a bias for those we honor and value more than others, then offers a four-step process of building unity based on the image of God. **1. Acknowledge your blind spots. 2. Diversify your social circle. 3. See people through “the image” of God. 4. Take responsibility.**

We all need to honor the image of God in which we were made. Every person on the planet was made in the image of God, was created to honor and worship God, was created to have a relationship with God, has been given the ability to walk in a relationship with God, has been given the ability to walk in a relationship with one another, to love, to encourage, to have empathy, to speak life into and for each other, to honor the presence of the image of God in every single one of us. PC said, *“The image of God in me is not superior to the image of God in you! I need to treat you fairly, with honor and place value on you, on each other. The church is to live this out, it’s a heart issue, it can’t be legislated!”*

Discussion Questions

- Can you give examples of the three expressions of racism in your personal life?
- Pastor Curt talked about “In-group Bias” and “Out-group Discrimination”. Identify three ways you favor your racial in-group. The next time you encounter someone from your racial out-group, take a moment to assess how much out-group discrimination you are inclined to express, and practice reversing your treatment of them.
- What were you told about people of another ethnic group while growing up?
- What friend is most equipped to reveal your racial blind spots to you?
- In what way could you leverage your life to help someone else?

Prayer Focus

Father, I thank you for your love, mercy and compassion for all of us. Father give us a greater understanding of our need for racial reconciliation so we can see the image of God in each other. Please give us wisdom to make this happen, and by your power, give us greater love and compassion, so that your love and compassion might flow through us.

Next Steps

PC mentioned a tool we can all use this week - **The Third Option** 7-Day devotional plan “that will offer guidance on racial unity by identifying the cultural influences that shape our attitudes on race, and explaining why we must honor the priceless value of God’s image in all people.” Click on this link: [Third Option Devo](#)

Leader Tip

Challenge your group to express love for someone who doesn’t look like them. Find a friend, neighbor, co - worker and show an expression of love to them through a hug, handshake, or a conversation.