

UNRAVELLING RACISM: PART 2 – CONFRONTING DENIAL

The following questions are to help stimulate your discussion of *the* implications and applications of the sermon. The order of the questions roughly corresponds to the structure of the sermon, however, feel free to skip around (or simply skip) as you see fit.

Warm Up

1. Take a few minutes and conduct an Influence Inventory. Thinking back across your life list of the following:
 - Your closest friends.
 - The mentors/teachers you have looked to for guidance
 - The preachers / theologians, who you have relied on for spiritual guidance
 - Your favourite books
 - A. Go back and take note of the cultural backgrounds they represent i.e., race, ethnicity, gender, class, ability, etc.
 - B. Based on the cultural backgrounds represented, how have their voices shaped your worldview? Which social realities have these specific influences helped you understand? Which social realities have these limited influences blinded you from? What kinds of experience did these voices normalize? Which kinds of experience did these voices ignore?
2. How might you go about broadening the kinds of voices that inform you about the world?
3. It was suggested that people use various forms of denial (see below) to cope with the pain associated with dealing with unpleasant and unjust past and present realities.
 - Denial of privilege
 - I'm colourblind!
 - Everyone sees (or should see) the world like I do (positionality – the normalization of being white)
 - The myth of meritocracy
 - Intent is what really matters
 - What about reverse racism?
 - A. Which forms of denial do you recognize yourself using?

More questions and resources on page 2

4. How did Jesus cross ethnic, gender, and religious barriers in John 4:1-42 (The story of the woman at the well).

5. How might you begin to allow gospel patterns of interracial interaction to break our social patterns of racial self-segregation? How might you be intentional about changing your proximity to people of different racial, ethnic, or religious backgrounds?

For Further Engagement

- Watch the short Video ***\$100 To the Winner of the Race***, which illustrates the concept of privilege.
<https://youtu.be/vwx5lvypC5Q>

- Listen to Pete Enns' podcast: ***The Bible, Race, and White Supremacy*** with Drew G. I. Hart. This podcast covers the difficult and painful topic of white supremacy and the Christian faith. Hart is assistant professor of theology at Messiah College, activist, and author of ***Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism***.
<https://peteenns.com/b4np-podcast-episode-26-bible-race-white-supremacy-drew-g-hart/>