



VOUS CHURCH SZN 2 - 2021 RACIAL UNITY RESOURCE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PROMOTE RACIAL UNITY?

As the body of Christ, it is our duty to reflect the heart of God. Racism is a sin issue that breaks God’s heart. And it should break our hearts as well. This year, our pastors and staff came around a passage of scripture found in Amos chapter five. We have been struck by Eugene Peterson’s powerful paraphrase:

“I can’t stand your religious meetings. I’m fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I’m sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I’ve had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to me? Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s all I want.” Amos 5:21-24 (The Message)

The point of this passage is not that God hates church gatherings, conferences, or projects. It is an expression of God’s outrage at a people who had committed themselves to “religious activities” but completely forgotten his heart. The moment we fall in love with our ceremonies and fail to love and serve people is the moment we have lost our way.

Racism is a sin that has divided human beings for centuries. Pastor Miles McPherson, author of *The Third Option*, defines racism as seeing the image of God as less valuable in someone else than in ourselves. It is the image of God that we possess, not our legs, arms or mind, that make us distinctly human.

Our role as the body of Christ is to represent him well – that means being countercultural. We can choose to love differently. We can choose to put others before ourselves. We can choose to promote unity simply by asking God to search our hearts and transform us from the inside out to genuinely love and respect others for the image of God they represent.



WHAT THIS LOOK LIKE PRACTICALLY?

1. **Pray** – Be radical in your prayer to God. You can use David’s prayer:
Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”
Ask God to reveal any areas where you need to personally repent and be transformed to see others the way that He sees them.
2. **Seek to Understand** – Commit to being a lifelong learner, choosing to view the world through the eyes of others. Learn to become an active listener, not just hearing what others have to say, but truly, genuinely seeking to understand their perspective before sharing yours.
3. **Take Action** – There are many ways to be a part of the solution.
Start by evaluating your current actions:
 - Are you posting life-giving / unity-promoting content on your social media?
 - Are you speaking words of life and unity in your conversations with others?
 - Are you choosing to be radical in the way you give of your time, your gifts, and your treasures?

Next, learn about initiatives that you can support. Perhaps there is a racial unity initiative at your job. Research city and county-wide initiatives to learn about the ones you can support. Finally, choose to participate in our Crew and ILMC Racial Unity Initiatives as we continue to intentionally partner with black-owned organizations, host prayer walks in our city, and host The Third Option Care Crew every SZN.

RESOURCES WE RECOMMEND

1. Book: [The Third Option](#) by Pastor Miles McPherson
2. Movie: *Just Mercy* (2019)