

## Series: Let's Talk About It

## Sermon: Racism

**Passage: various**

## Illustration:

Need: Prejudice, racism, discrimination, and hatred are realities of our broken world. For the church to have any chance at promoting racial reconciliation as a real possibility, it must first exist then thrive in the body.

**I. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 - The ministry of reconciliation.**

- Christ died and was raised in order for God to reconcile us to Himself.
- Reconcile = the exchange of hostility for a friendly relationship.
- As reconciled children, we are in Christ and therefore we are NEW creations.
- We, the reconciled, have been given the ministry of reconciliation in the name of Jesus!

**II. Ephesians 2:13-22 - The broken wall of human hostility.**

- The cross brings an end to human hostility with each other.
- In the cross there is no more "us & them," no more "we & they." It is now Us!
- In the cross we who were created as one human race but separated by sin, are reunited as one body, one building, built together where His Spirit is to dwell & work.

**III. John 17:11b, 20-26 - Unity is the way.**

- Jesus prayed for unity to be the reality in the church.
- Unity in the church points the lost to Jesus and reconciliation with the Father.
- Unity in the church is sourced in God's love for us and produces God's love in us.

**IV. Ephesians 5:8-14 - Our sin exposed for what it is.**

- Prejudice and racism exist in the church. It must be exposed & addressed for unity to be possible & for reconciliation to be a reality.
  - Individual hatred, prejudice, & discrimination practiced & tolerated.
  - Intentional or desired segregation by denominations and individual churches.
  - Diversity accepted but not passionately pursued.
  - Racial/cultural insensitivity & unconcern.
  - Boundaries to involvement & service. (leadership & participation limitations)
  - Unwillingness to admit past/present failures.
  - Unforgiveness & bitterness.

**V. Let's talk about Racism & Reconciliation. ("One Blood" by John M. Perkins)**

- We must accept that there is only one race, the human race, one blood.
- We must lament the brokenness of our past.
- We must make mutual confessions and forgive one another.
- We must repent & remain committed to this great work.
- We must pray that God will defeat the enemies of unity in the body.