

Let's Talk About It - Racism & Reconciliation

"We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." - Declaration of Independence, 1776.

Yet, even as the ink of this document was still wet, before the first revolutionary shot was fired these words were not true for thousands of "Americans" brought to this land against their will. It would not ever be true for most of them and it would remain untrue for all of them for another 180 years.

1776 - 2020 = 244 years

89 years slavery was completely legal (1865 - 13th Amendment)

89 years slavery was illegal but discrimination & segregation were not (1954 Brown vs Board of Education)

14 years segregation was illegal but still the norm in many states (1968 MLK assassinated)

192 years of 244 total (78%) marked by racial injustice.

1620 - 2020 = 400 years

236 years of legal slavery

339 years of 400 total (85%)

Much progress has been made since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s but prejudice and racism are still very much alive and well in the United States.

Individual Racism = when a persons beliefs, attitudes, and actions are based on biases, stereotypes, or prejudices against another race.

Cultural Racism = when one culture is considered better than another.

Systemic/Institutional Racism = practice of social and political institutions reflected in disparities regarding wealth, income, criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, political power and education, among other factors.

White Privilege = is the societal privilege that benefits white people over non-white people, particularly if they are otherwise under the same social, political, or economic circumstances. White privilege denotes both obvious and less obvious passive advantages that white people may not recognize they have, which distinguishes it from overt bias or prejudice. These include cultural affirmations of one's own worth; presumed greater social status; and freedom to move, buy, work, play, and speak freely.

Racism and racial injustice in all it's forms is & has always been Evil & Unacceptable - SIN.

Equality and Unity, however, is to characterize the church (God's people). The road to equality and unity will involve and require Reconciliation. **This is our mission!**