**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. June 14, 2020**

**Racism In The Church? Part 2**

ACTS 11:1-18

**Key Truth:** We must identify and overcome racial bigotry in our lives that hinder the spread of the gospel.

**When The Gospel Challenges Your Prejudices:**

1. Peter wasn’t expecting to be challenged in his cultural

 beliefs.

2. God comes to expose and reorient every area of our

 lives.

 A. The racist refuses and rejects God’s word and the

 power of the Holy Spirit.

3. The gospel of Jesus Christ not only saves us, but unites

 us as one people under God.

4. The church in America has refused to allow the Holy

 Spirit to enter into the cultural closets that divide us.

**How Do We Break Down The Wall Of Racism In The Church?**

1. Discipleship that is done biblically and relationally.

2. Allowing the Holy Spirit to invade the deep recess of our

 heart. Psalm 139:23-24

3. You must burst the bubble of your willful racial

 ignorance that leads to apathy for other ethnic groups.

4. We must intentionally live out our faith in a diverse

 community.

 A. Beware of the echo chamber.

5. It is not enough for Christians not to be racist, we must

 be anti-racist.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Confess and repent of any racism/prejudices you may have. Intentionally, live out ethnic reconciliation that reflects the Kingdom of God.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How has racism changed in our culture in your lifetime?

What evidence of racism have you seen on the local news lately? Were you surprised by what you saw? Why or why not?

Read ACTS 10:26-29: Why do you think it took Peter so long to come to this revelation regarding Gentiles?

What causes racism/prejudice?

Racism and police brutality issues are at the forefront of our world yet again. How might believers respond if we saw these situations not just as political issues, but as ministry opportunities?

ACTS 11:1-3: Do you think it took courage for Peter to go against the “Party” of his day?

ACTS 11:16-20: Since becoming a Christian how has your cultural assumptions been challenged by that truth?

What are some particular ways our prejudices and cultural assumptions hinder the spread of the gospel?

How can Christ followers today share the good news of Jesus Christ with people who need to hear in a way that is both true and loving?