

EPISODE: 274

TITLE: Racism, Identity and Our Gospel Hope

The only hope for an end to systemic racism and abuses of power is the Gospel proclaimed and lived out. Not churchy stuff or more Bible studies that we never learn from. The Gospel.

Here are three key things to believe and consider about racism, our identity and the Gospel...

1. **The subject of racial equality or social injustice is one of the most pressing and important topics in our culture today.** Add to that the systemic abuses of power that much of the world is waking up to, and we find ourselves in a very complex and critical time in history. Again. Are we listening? Are we learning anything? Are we seeking to understand and bear with those who are different from us, or merely coexist in blissful avoidance? I don't think it's enough to just be "not racist" anymore. We must be "anti-racist" and ask God to show us how to BE different and how to be a voice and people of Good News for ALL.
2. **The only hope** for equality and for an end to systemic racism and abuses of power in this world **is the Gospel.** Not churchy stuff, not more Bible studies where we don't live out what we learn in those studies. The Gospel. The good news that Jesus came to take our sins, prejudices, and violence upon himself and give us new hearts and minds, needs to be our loudest voice right now. Society and culture are changed and healed when individual hearts and lives are transformed by Jesus, and we begin to both see and highly esteem the image of God in each other.
3. **Who are the people of color in your life you can start to be WITH more often?** To listen and learn, to better understand their perspectives and experience? How can you be FOR them and help them start to tangibly experience God's love, acceptance, and provision (we have so much!) in greater measure? Find ways to defend the defenseless in your neighborhood or city and help shoulder the lack, loss, and pain they are feeling. Speak value and hope to their faces as you assure them that you are present and will be with and for them as we, together, pray for and experience God's redemption... one heart, one family, one police precinct, one church at a time.

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar