

## One Faith, One People: Racial Reconciliation and God's Kingdom

*"After these things I (John) looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" Revelation 7:9-10*

### I. Introduction

### II. Effecting Racial Reconciliation: How Do We Get There---What Should We Know?

1. All good, Godly people have \_\_\_\_\_.

*"When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs? "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners' know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified. "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not! If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker. For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!" Galatians 2:11-21*

2. All of us need \_\_\_\_\_ to grow.

*"Let no unwholesome talk proceed out of your mouth, but only that which is good for edifying others, that it may impart grace to the hearers. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.**" Ephesians 4:29-32 (NKJV)*

*"**Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.** And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful." Colossians 3:13-15*

3. Speak \_\_\_\_\_ with one another, without allowing \_\_\_\_\_.

*"Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another. **Be angry, and do not sin---do not let the sun go down on your (wrath) unresolved anger, nor give place to the devil.**" Ephesians 4:25-27*

*"**Human anger never achieves God's righteous purposes.**" James 1:20*

*"...**by speaking the truth in love**, we can grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ..." Ephesians 4:15*

4. We never lose sight of who the \_\_\_\_\_.

***“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that people may have life, and have it more abundantly.” John 10:10***

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary **the devil prowls about** like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” I Peter 5:8 (NKJV)*

5. As Christ-followers, we are \_\_\_\_\_ an our goal should be \_\_\_\_\_.

***“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9 (NKJV)***

*“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom...But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then **peace-loving**, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.*

***Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.” James 3:13; 17-18***

*What is the one vital component of Biblically-oriented “peace?”*

***“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!” Isaiah 52:7***

6. Jesus has given us \_\_\_\_\_.

*“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. **For Jesus Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility**, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. **Jesus’ purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility**. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.” Ephesians 2:13-22*

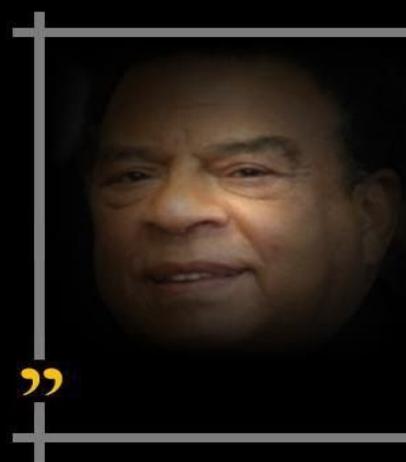
*“Every aspect of the way God views and saves sinners is designed to undermine racism and lead to a reconciled and redeemed humanity from every people group in the world.”— John Piper*

*“All hope of Christian unity and reconciliation begins at the cross.”---anonymous*

*“The church is not a theological classroom. It is a conversion, confession, repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sanctification center, where flawed people place their faith in Christ, gather to know and love him better, and learn to love others as he designed.”----Paul Tripp*

## **Homework Assignments:**

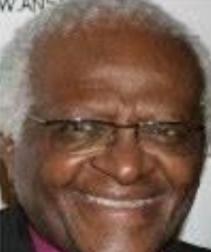
1. Always keep Jesus first in your conversations and endeavors
2. Forgive (*and ask for forgiveness—whenever and wherever called for*)
3. Be strategic about expanding your circle of friendships and relationships
4. Always communicate in love and honesty
5. Always keep the solution in mind---not the problem(s)
6. Never forget that He who connects us is infinitely more powerful than anything that can divide us
7. Live prayerfully—always asking the Lord to reveal your “*blind spots*” to you each day
8. Be very aware of anything that you’re considering posting on social media
  - ☐ *Is it racist?*
  - ☐ *Is it---at the very least---insensitive?*
  - ☐ *Even if it’s neither---is this the best time for any posts that may get easily misconstrued?*
  - ☐ *Could these words or actions be offensive or hurt the feelings of your brother/sister in Christ?*
9. Pray with your brothers/sisters in Christ here in Victory family for unity, reconciliation and blessing
10. Be intentional about encouraging and standing with one another---particularly in these times



Any racial reconciliation we've had in this country has come not out of confrontation but out of a spirit of reconciliation. If we continue to practice an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, we'll eventually end up with a land of people who are blind and toothless.

*Andrew Young*

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WANTS

Forgiveness and reconciliation are not just ethereal, spiritual, other-worldly activities. They have to do with the real world. They are realpolitik, because in a very real sense, without forgiveness, there is no future.

— Desmond Tutu —

AZ QUOTES

When we allow  
God's love to  
trump our anger,  
we are able  
to experience  
**RESTORATION**  
in relationships.

- Gwen Smith

**Answer Key:**

- 1. unredeemed and unhealed areas**
- 2. grace, truth and time**
- 3. truth----anger**
- 4. real enemy is in the earth**
- 5. family---peace**
- 6. everything that we need for total victory!**