

SERIES: STAND ALONE

TITLE: A Discussion on Race

SPEAKER: Bob Marvel, Rueshudna (Rue) Whidbee, Vinny Latimore

DATE: June 13-14, 2020

“Compassion is the sometimes fatal capacity for feeling what it is like to live inside somebody else’s skin. It’s the knowledge that there can never really be any peace and joy for me until there is peace and joy for you too.” - Federick Buechner

1. Pray first and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Pray for humility, openness and a new start towards racial reconciliation.
2. Read Galatians 6:2, Colossians 3:12-15 and James 2:8-9 out loud. What is the law of the Christ, the Royal Law and how can it break down racism? In what ways did Jesus and the apostles tangibly breakdown racial barriers throughout their ministry? Please share examples.
3. How well would you grade the church (the BIG C Church) in combatting racism?
4. Pastor Bob shared how “the talk” he received as a kid was about the birds and the bees. Vinny Latimore shared how “the talk” he received as a kid was how to stay alive. What was your reaction to this story? What impact do you think his mother needing to “prepare” him, has had on him?
5. Rueshudna (Rue) Whidbee raised the issue of “color-blindness.” What does that mean? What are the implications of racial color blindness in the Church?
6. What is trauma informed response and how can that help white people understand how blacks feel?
7. What feelings or emotions did you experienced while listening to Rue and Vinny share their reality of life as a black persons?
8. How do you interpret this quote from Angela Hill? - “In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

9. How did you feel when Vinny said, *“Church is full of many, many different people and within the Body of Christ there is equality. Realize that racism is a sin. We’ve all sinned and fallen short of God’s Glory. Be open to learn. Be open to talk. Look at individuals as individuals...as a black male I’ve gotten comfortable being uncomfortable. **Now it’s time for others to be uncomfortable.** Look inside your heart. This has to happen on the inside. Something has to happen deep down inside. Let’s have a conversation. We may not agree on everything but at least listen...”* Do you find this statement convicting or challenging? If so, what convicts or challenges you and why?
10. What are some of the barriers within Cornwall Church to building a welcoming community and combat racism? What barriers may prevent or discourage people of color from engaging in our ministries and attending our church? OVER...

PERSONAL CHALLENGES

1. Realize that racism is a sin. Choose to be comfortable with being uncomfortable.
2. Watch Just Mercy, Read The Color of Compromise
3. Be an ally, be anti-racist

“Let us listen, learn, grow...follow the example of Christ and let God’s Word engage how we approach these conversations.” – Bob Marvel