

**Ephesians 2:11-16 (NLT)**

<sup>11</sup> Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup> In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup> But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup> He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup> Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

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**the problem**

**the answer**

## the challenge

### *For those who are victims of racism...*

#### Ephesians 4:31-32 (NLT)

<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. <sup>32</sup> Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.

### *For those who have racism in their hearts...*

#### Romans 6:13 (NLT)

Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

## the big idea

### reflection and application

1. Are your relationships marked by *sameness* or *oneness*?
2. Do you need to confess and repent what's going on in your heart?  
Indifference? Ignorance? Instigation?
3. Are you willing to practice "intentional courtesy" (grace) with others outside of your ethnic group?
  - playdate // coffee or meal // sports // outing

#### **How To Uncover All Sins: (REVIEW)**

1. Ask God to reveal the true condition of your heart. (Psalm 139:23-24)
2. Confess to God what sins you are hiding, and why. (Psalm 32:5, 9)
3. Commit to corresponding characteristics or principles of Christ or a fruit of the Holy Spirit that does battle with the sins you are hiding. (cf. Romans 13:14; Galatians 5:22-23)
4. Commit to being "naked" before others in a way that invites accountability or opportunity to share about the Gospel. (cf., James 5:16)