

Pursuing Racial Justice (2 of 4) Small Group Discussion Questions

SUNDAY WORSHIP DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The global pandemic COVID-19 has forced us to adjust and adapt how we do church and stay connected to one another as a congregation. We're not closed as a church, we're just doing church differently! So, please stay connected to the body at Grantham Church. Join our congregation for worship online at 10:30 am each Sunday morning. Follow the worship liturgy and watch our [Vimeo](#) videos at granthamchurch.org/liturgy.

As usual, the sermons will be posted to the [recent sermons page](#) on our website and at the [Grantham Church Podcast](#) the following day, along with the small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for engaging with us online!

Sunday, January 17th 2021



Sermon Title: Taking on the Principalities & Powers

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 2:14-16; 6:10-12; Galatians 3:28; Philippians 2:1-11

Sermon Focus: You know you're being played by spiritual powers when you identify flesh and blood as the enemy. So, if we're going to pursue racial justice, we need to wake up to the systems that condition us and begin resisting the spiritual forces of evil that seek to separate and divide us. Listen as Greg Boyd shares how Christ has broken down walls of hostility and calls us to further the multi-ethnic Kingdom of God.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person, by phone, or video call! Use the following questions to guide your small group discussion:

1. Greg Boyd began his message by sharing his first eye-opening encounter with white privilege and racist systems when he was out jogging through a black neighborhood not far from Yale. Can you recall the first time your eyes were opened to the problem of racism, white supremacy, and racist systems?
2. Share with your group how you were raised. Did you grow up in a diverse town/city? Did your family have cross-ethnic relationships? Were you taught about racism? How were you conditioned by the social systems around you?
3. Share with your group how you've seen and experienced racism. What are some ways you see it at work in the church and in our own community? If you have a person of color or ethnic minority in your group, let them share first. Be mindful as others share. Enter into this conversation as a *confession* before God.
4. Greg said that our sin and sinful systems are much bigger than individuals, and much more expansive than human problems. Read Ephesians 6:10-12 together. Greg said, "You know you're being played by spiritual powers when you identify flesh and blood as the enemy." How should that impact the way we respond to racism? What should the church be doing that secular justice warriors won't do?
5. Greg told us that according to a New Testament (apocalyptic) worldview, fallen angelic beings are associated with nations, groups, corporations, systems, mobs, etc. Have you ever noticed "the power" and negative energy that a group takes on when certain individuals come together? How have you experienced this in your family, at work, and at social gatherings? What about in the church?
6. Read Ephesians 2:14-16 and Galatians 3:28 together. Greg said that Jesus died to form one new humanity and to manifest the future Kingdom now. Greg said that this is a *central* concern of the Gospel of Christ, e.g. like the atonement!

Greg gave us *three* tips on how to be discipled into this truth:

- i. Cultivate Cross-Ethnic Relationships/Friendships
- ii. Educate Yourself
- iii. Support the Cause

What do each of these things look like for you? What can you do?