

Chapter 8 - How to Work for Racial Justice

Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to work for racial justice?

It was Dr. Kings' concept of the Beloved Community, and that Love requires the use of Power. This is clear from Christ's death and resurrection, it took power to go to the cross and dies, and power to rise from the dead.

2. How have you experienced love as justice and justice as love.

When I was in business many years ago, I committed a bank crime. It was out of desperation to keep my business afloat. In any event, the branch manager, who was a close friend and whom I disappointed, brought it to my attention, thereby not excusing my crime of close to 50,000. But instead of charging me criminally, she put together a consortium that I was a part of to repay the stolen funds through a joint venture. This was both love and justice working together, this led to some shame for my wrongdoing, but also the reward of being able to make it right.

3. Read Mark 12:28-34. As Christians, how does the Greatest Commandment inform the way we love in public and propel us towards justice?

I must remember that we all are Image bearers and therefore deserving of love. When I remember that, I do a respectable job. When I fail, usually because I am angry, I must gather myself, repent, apologize and hope to do better next time. The other thing is to remember Mt. 5:9 - "Blessed are the peacemakers...." It has occurred to me that "blessed" in this context means "happy" or "In your happy place." In other words, being a peacemaker should satisfy my soul.

4. What would you say to a fellow Christian or a church community who pushes the idea of love, and yet refuses to take a stand on justice? What are the implications of these kinds of actions of pushing love without standing for Justice? **I would try to help them understand what the Gospel is by showing them various texts that talk about Jesus and Justice (and social works), i.e., Luke 4:18, Matthew 25:31-40. I would then ask them what Jesus meant when he said we as disciples are both "Salt" and "Light" (Mt. 5:13-16). In my view "Salt" as a preservative in that day, suggests that my social service and justice we (disciples) serve to preserve our society.**

Pray

Ask God to open your hearts and minds to the areas around you where love needs to penetrate the systems and structures of our society as justice so that all of us may have the opportunity to flourish. Invite God to show you when it looks like to love your neighbors well as individuals and as a faith community.

Chapter 9 - How to Fight Systemic Racism

Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to love in public? **It was the Federal Investigation into the Michael Brown shooting death in Ferguson, MO. It determined that the strict, harsh, over policing and in Ferguson was a recipe for what happen, that in fact it was inevitable. Data collected from the Ferguson PD said that from 2012-2014 revealed that Black people made up 90% of the arrests, despite only comprising 67% of the population there.**

2. How have you personally experienced or witnessed racism in the form of a system or policy?

Some time ago I was made privy to the salaries the Inside Salesmen in my industry, specifically here in NYC. I was flabbergasted to learn that the Whites, out earned the Black people by 20 percent or more. And most of them did not have my years of experience or my skill. I saw there that the hiring practices of those employed to do so automatically assigned more value to White men than that of Black people.

3. Why do you think it is so hard for predominantly white communities to see racism embedded in systems and policies, and not just the result or intention of individual behavior?

They have been conditioned by what they read and are exposed to and convinced by the single story, - see "The Danger of the Single Story" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9lhs241zeg&t=21s>. That is, they look at situations, like Black unemployment or crime and make assumptions and draw incorrect conclusions. This is because they have been conditioned to think of us in a certain light. However, if they became educated and learned from sociology experts or just read more, they would know that there are factors that exist outside of what they know.

4. Jemar gave us a hefty list of racial justice practices for how to fight racism and love in public. Why are some of these practices considered "controversial"? **African American reparations would do the trick. In truth, it is because people need to care enough to make the necessary changes. Nothing short of education or better stated**

re-education, would serve to help people learn more about racism and its horrific cost to American success.

Pray

Ask God to open your hearts and minds to the systemic racism around you, and ask God to show you specific ways you can practice your commitment to racial justice as you speak about these systemic issues and show love through justice in public. _

Chapter 10 - How to Orient Your Life to Racial Justice

Discuss/Reflect

1. What stood out to you from Jemar's chapter on how to orient your life to racial justice? **"Fighting racism does not consist of a set of isolated actions that you take" I think I have been guilty of talking more about it than being about it. His idea of "repositioning ourselves" is helpful. That is, "spiritually, emotionally, culturally, intellectually, and politically. Yes, and Amen to this.**
2. How have you started to orient your life towards racial justice as a result of participating in this study over the past few weeks? **I am committed to learning, teaching, and educating others, in a loving, but firm way. I can no longer expect Whites for example to get it, it does not happen. Patience, love, and action will get the job done.**
3. How do you plan to "keep the light switch on" in the fight against racism in your own life, and in the life of your community? How will you encourage others to do the same? **For me, it is by learning as much as I can so that I can connect and/or draw a line from the Doctrine of Discovery to where this dangerous theology and belief is exists today, and hopefully show and educate people of the systemic nature of same.**
4. Which racial justice practice resonates with you in the core of your being? Most often this will be the practice we feel convicted by or motivated to start practicing right away. **Preaching the real Gospel of Jesus Christ, but in a way that it will be difficult to refute. The real Gospel is anti-racist, all-loving, all-correcting, and can ultimately draw all**

people together under the love of Christ. Second, by living the gospel from the inside out.

Pray

Ask God to show you how you can orient your life towards racial justice in a way that has the greatest effect on your own life and impact in your community.