

# **The Gospel and Race/Slavery**

## **Goals of the Series**

- ❖ To submit fully to the teaching from God's Word
- ❖ To discover what God's Word says about modern controversial topics
- ❖ How are we as Christians to engage with each of these topics
- ❖ Become equipped to take the Gospel in the culture

*Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. - Romans 12:1-2*

*"I believe that one reason why the church of God at this present moment has so little influence over the world is because the world has so much influence over the church .... Put your finger on any prosperous page in the Church's history, and [you] will find a little marginal note [that says]: 'In this age [people] could readily see where the Church began and where the world ended.' Never were there good times when the Church and the world were joined in marriage with one another." Charles Spurgeon*

## **The Word is my only source of authority.**

- A preacher's authority is NOT personal.
- A preacher's authority is NOT organizational.
- A preacher's authority is NOT intellectual.
- A preacher's authority is NOT psychological.
- A preacher's authority is NOT experiential.
- A preacher's authority is ONLY biblical.

## **Goals of this particular night**

- ❖ Understand what the Bible says about race/racist behavior/human diversity/slavery
- ❖ How do these things relate to the Gospel
- ❖ How do these things relate to the Great Commission of "making disciples"
- ❖ How do we live a Christian life and respond to people that are racist, have racist behavior, and fight against modern-day slavery

## **Questions/concerns/challenges we face regarding this issue**

- ❖ It seems like every month (or week), we have a new story in the media about a racially charged murder.
- ❖ Names like George Floyd and Breonna Taylor are becoming synonymous with a corrupt political and judicial system
- ❖ Black Lives Matter vs. All Lives Matter
- ❖ Over 21 million people live in slavery today
- ❖ Many of these millions are bought, sold, and exploited for sex in what has become one of the fastest-growing industries on earth.
- ❖ Sex trafficking is a multi- billion dollar industry worldwide.

## Gospel Foundations

*“The gospel is the good news that the only true God, the just and gracious Creator of the universe, has looked upon hopelessly sinful men and women and has sent His Son, God in the flesh, to bear His wrath against sin through His substitutionary death on the cross and to show His power over sin and death through His resurrection from the grave so that everyone who turns from their sin and themselves and trusts in Jesus alone as Savior and Lord will be reconciled to God forever.” - David Platt*

- ❖ God is our gracious Creator and we belong to Him

*Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*Colossians 1:16 - For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through him and for him*

- ❖ He is holy and He is our Judge, which makes us accountable to Him

*Revelation 4:8 - Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.*

*Psalms 7:8 - The Lord judges the peoples; vindicate me, Lord, according to my righteousness and my integrity.*

*Romans 2:6-11 - He will repay each one according to his works: eternal life to those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality; but wrath and anger to those who are self-seeking and disobey the truth while obeying unrighteousness. There*

*will be affliction and distress for every human being who does evil, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does what is good, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For there is no favoritism with God.*

- ❖ God made man and woman wonderfully and uniquely

*Genesis 1:26-27 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.*

- ❖ All human beings became morally evil and corrupted by sin

*Genesis 3:6-7 - The woman saw that the tree was good for food and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

*John 8:34 - Jesus responded, "Truly I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin.*

- ❖ All human beings became corrupted in their wisdom and knowledge, without hope

*Romans 1:21-23 - For though they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became worthless, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles.*

- ❖ All human beings became separate from God and deserve death

*Isaiah 59:2 - But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen.*

*Romans 6:23a - "For the wages of sin is death..."*

- ❖ We are spiritually dead

*Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned*

- ❖ How can God express His holiness without consuming us in our sin?
- ❖ How can God express His love without condoning us in our sin?
- ❖ How can God judge sin and justify the sinner at the same time?
- ❖ How can God satisfy Himself and save us at the same time?

*“You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary” -  
Jonathan Edwards*

- ❖ Jesus alone is able to remove our sin and restore us to God

*1 Timothy 2:5-6 - For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.*

- ❖ Jesus lived a life we could not live

*1 John 3:5 - You know that he was revealed so that he might take away sins, and there is no sin in him.*

- ❖ Jesus died the death we deserve to die

*1 Peter 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

- ❖ The essence of sin:

- Man substitutes himself for God.
- Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be.

- ❖ The essence of salvation:

- God substitutes Himself for man.
- God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be.

- ❖ We are saved both by God and from God

- ❖ The Gospel does not end here, but we must give a personal response.

- ❖ God calls all people in all nations to repent and believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins

*Luke 24:45-47 - Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. He also said to them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead the third*

*day, and repentance for forgiveness of sins will be proclaimed in his name to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

- ❖ This involves turning from all sin, and submitting to the Christ's Lordship

*Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*

- ❖ All who have faith in Jesus will be reconciled to God forever

*Ephesians 2:4-7 - But God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love that he had for us, made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses. You are saved by grace! He also raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might display the immeasurable riches of his grace through his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

- ❖ In Christ, we experience a new life, with a new heart, mind, and attitude through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

*2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!*

*Titus 3:4-7 - But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life.*

*John 16:8-14 - When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. "I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.*

- ❖ Gospel-centered faith will lead to a Gospel-centered lifestyle

*Matthew 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*

- ❖ Heaven is a glorious reality for those who trust Jesus, and hell is a dreadful reality for those who die without Christ

*Phil. 3:20-21 - Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself*

*Rev. 20:11-15 - Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

- ❖ No one decides to “make Jesus Lord of their life.” He already is! The only question is “will I submit to His Lordship?”

*Philippians 2:9-11 - For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

There is more at stake tonight just having a little Bible study. Eternity is on the line. I pray that if you are someone who is unsure in your faith, that you would make the greatest decision of your life and give your life to Christ fully tonight. And for those who are in Christ., I pray tonight that we understand how God views His Creation, people of every skin color, and how to fight against modern-day slavery that millions are enduring this very moment

## **The Gospel and Race**

- ❖ God created all humans, two distinct genders, with equal worth

*Genesis 1:26-30 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth." God also said, "Look, I have given you every seed-bearing plant on the surface of the entire earth and every tree whose fruit contains seed. This will be food for you, for all the wildlife of the earth, for every bird of the sky, and for every creature that crawls on the earth—everything having the breath of life in it—I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.*

❖ God placed great value and care for human beings

*Psalms 8:3-6 - When I observe your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you set in place, what is a human being that you remember him, a son of man that you look after him? You made him little less than God and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet*

❖ Sin led to division in the first family and ultimately the first murder

*Genesis 4:3-8 - In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the Lord. And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you furious? And why do you look despondent? If you do what is right, won't you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*

❖ Since the very beginning, sin is ultimately behind the mistreatment of the opposite gender and the mistreatment of other people

*Genesis 4:19 - Lamech took two wives for himself, one named Adah and the other named Zillah.*

*Genesis 4:23-24 - Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; wives of Lamech, pay attention to my words. For I killed a man for wounding me, a young man*

*for striking me. If Cain is to be avenged seven times over, then for Lamech it will be seventy-seven times!*

- ❖ The first record in the Bible we have of distinct nations/people groups is found in the family of Noah

*Genesis 10:32 - These are the clans of Noah's sons, according to their family records, in their nations. The nations on earth spread out from these after the flood.*

- ❖ The division of humanity into different languages and ethnicity was a judgement on human's sin

*Genesis 11:1-9 - The whole earth had the same language and vocabulary. As people migrated from the east, they found a valley in the land of Shinar and settled there. They said to each other, "Come, let's make oven-fired bricks." (They used brick for stone and asphalt for mortar.) And they said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the sky. Let's make a name for ourselves; otherwise, we will be scattered throughout the earth." Then the Lord came down to look over the city and the tower that the humans were building. The Lord said, "If they have begun to do this as one people all having the same language, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let's go down there and confuse their language so that they will not understand one another's speech." So from there the Lord scattered them throughout the earth, and they stopped building the city. Therefore it is called Babylon, for there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth, and from there the Lord scattered them throughout the earth.*

- ❖ However, the division of humanity into different languages and ethnicity was clearly part of the plan of salvation that Christ would be praised by many ethnicities because Christ gets more glory

*Philippians 2:9-11 - For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- ❖ Christ redeems all people, not under one ethnicity or race, but under Himself

*Acts 2:1-12 - When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. They saw tongues like flames of fire that*

*separated and rested on each one of them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded and amazed, saying, "Look, aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts), Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the magnificent acts of God in our own tongues." They were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"*

*Acts 2:38-41 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call." With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.*

❖ Paul rebukes "racist thinking" between "brilliant, elite Athenians" and "barbarians"

*Acts 17:24-26 - The God who made the world and everything in it—he is Lord of heaven and earth—does not live in shrines made by hands. Neither is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives everyone life and breath and all things. From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live.*

❖ We strive for racial harmony for the sake of God's glory in the world

*John 17:20-23 - "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.*

❖ One day, all nations and all races of believers will be gathered for all eternity for everlasting fellowship and worship of God

*Revelation 7:9-10 - After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN THE BIBLE THAT TEACHES, PROCLAIMS, OR PROMOTES THE IDEA THAT ONE RACE, OR SUBGROUP, OR ETHNICITY IS SUPERIOR IN THE EYES OF GOD THAN THE OTHER. NOTHING. EVERY SINGLE CREATURE ON THIS EARTH IS MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD AND DESERVES TO BE TREATED AS SUCH. TO HATE A PERSON BASED ON SOMETHING THEY HAVE DONE OR HOW THEY LOOK OR WHATEVER STEREOTYPE WE THROW OUT IS COMPLETELY AGAINST GOD, BECAUSE GOD HIMSELF LOOKED UPON US, HIS ENEMIES AND DIED FOR US. WE WERE ALIENATED BY GOD, HE PURSUED US. WE WERE HIS ENEMIES, CHRIST DIED FOR US

HOW DID SO MANY MISS THIS? HOW DID SO MANY IN THE 17<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> AND 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MISS THIS BY ENSLAVING MILLIONS OF PEOPLE?

## What about all the slavery in the Bible?

❖ World history is filled with Various Types of Slavery

- **Hebrew servanthood** – an Israelite would voluntarily sell himself to another Israelite, for servanthood, in order to make money for he (and oftentimes his family) to survive. There were laws in Leviticus that we'll look at that are designed to keep the Israelites healthy and protected. And every fifty years, the year of jubilee, all servants/slaves were set free, given their land back, and released of all debts.
- **Roman slavery** – Estimated that over a third of the Roman empire were enslaved. All different types of pictures. It often just meant that you owed money to someone so you took a job to pay it off (teacher, government official, cooks, etc) Very humane. Often times people would voluntarily sell themselves into slavery in order get a better life. Roman citizenship, good standing in Roman society, earn more money.
  - To be clear, slavery is never ideal, or part of God's plan, and still some even during these times, considered slaves to be "less-than" or disgraced by society.
- African slave trade

Vinnie Busby, former slave in Mississippi once said, "One of the cruelest things I ever saw done to a slave was done by my master. He wanted to punish one of the slaves who

had done something that he didn't like. [The slave] was kind of a stubborn one. He took that slave and hitched him to a plow and plowed him just like a horse. He beat him and jerked him about until he got all bloody and sore, but the old master kept right on day after day. Finally, the buzzards were flying over them . . . those buzzards kept flying and the old master was haunted by that slave and the buzzards. He could always see them and hear the groans . . . And he was haunted that way for the rest of his life."

If we read certain Biblical passages on slavery, with this image in our mind, it can get very confusing. So understanding a little better the context... lets dive into how the Bible addresses slavery

❖ Slavery was not part of God's original design

*Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, the whole earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth."*

❖ Slavery is not part of God's ultimate desire

*Revelation 7:9-10 - After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

❖ Slavery is ultimately a product of sin

- Specific situations in a sinful world warrant specific instructions to a sinful world.
- Biblical instructions concerning slavery do not imply biblical approval of slavery. (just simply because slavery is mentioned , does NOT mean the Bible approves of it

❖ The Bible condemns slavery!

- We have equal dignity before God

*James 2:1 - My brothers and sisters, do not show favoritism as you hold on to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.*

- We are equally submissive to God

*James 4:7-8 - Therefore, submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*

- We will receive equal justice from God

*Colossians 3:25 - For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.*

❖ The Bible condemns slavery that violates God's Word

- The Bible denounces physical abuse

*Exodus 21:20 - When a man strikes his male or female slave with a rod, and the slave dies under his abuse, the owner must be punished.*

- The Bible denounces any type of kidnapping and enslaving

*Exodus 21:16 - Whoever kidnaps a person must be put to death, whether he sells him or the person is found in his possession.*

*1 Timothy 1:8-11 - But we know that the law is good, provided one uses it legitimately. We know that the law is not meant for a righteous person, but for the lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinful, for the unholy and irreverent, for those who kill their fathers and mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral and males who have sex with males, for slave traders, liars, perjurers, and for whatever else is contrary to the sound teaching that conforms to the gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which was entrusted to me.*

❖ The Bible regulates slavery

- God mandates physical protection for slaves
- God requires financial provision for slaves

*Leviticus 25:39-40 - If your brother among you becomes destitute and sells himself to you, you must not force him to do slave labor. Let him stay with you as a hired worker or temporary resident; he may work for you until the Year of Jubilee.*

- God requires caring supervision for slaves

*Exodus 20:10 - but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You must not do any work—you, your son or daughter, your male or female servant, your livestock, or the resident alien who is within your city gates.*

- God provides eventual freedom for slaves

*Leviticus 25:8-10 - You are to count seven sabbatical years, seven times seven years, so that the time period of the seven sabbatical years amounts to forty-nine. Then you are to sound a ram's horn loudly in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month; you will sound it throughout your land on the Day of Atonement. You are to consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim freedom in the land for all its inhabitants. It will be your Jubilee, when each of you is to return to his property and each of you to his clan.*

❖ The Bible speaks directly to slaves and encourages them

*1 Timothy 6:1-2 - All who are under the yoke as slaves should regard their own masters as worthy of all respect, so that God's name and his teaching will not be blasphemed. Let those who have believing masters not be disrespectful to them because they are brothers, but serve them even better, since those who benefit from their service are believers and dearly loved. Teach and encourage these things.*

➤ Slaves are to honor their masters for the glory of God

*1 Peter 2:18-20 - Household slaves, submit to your masters with all reverence not only to the good and gentle ones but also to the cruel. For it brings favor if, because of a consciousness of God, someone endures grief from suffering unjustly. For what credit is there if when you do wrong and are beaten, you endure it? But when you do what is good and suffer, if you endure it, this brings favor with God.*

➤ Slaves are to honor their masters for the advancement of the Gospel

*Titus 2:9-10 - Slaves are to submit to their masters in everything, and to be well-pleasing, not talking back or stealing, but demonstrating utter faithfulness, so that they may adorn the teaching of God our Savior in everything.*

- ❖ The highest goal of a Christian should not be racial reconciliation/social justice.
- ❖ The highest goal of a Christian should be aimed first at personal redemption which then leads to racial reconciliation

*John 4:1-26 - When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), he left Judea and went again to Galilee. He had to travel through Samaria; so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw*

water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, because his disciples had gone into town to buy food. "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water." "Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock." Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life." "Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water." "Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here." "I don't have a husband," she answered. "You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." "Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

*John 4:39-42 - Now many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of what the woman said when she testified, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. Many more believed because of what he said. And they told the woman, "We no longer believe because of what you said, since we have heard for ourselves and know that this really is the Savior of the world."*

- ❖ The story does not end with racism being over. The story does not end with systemic and racist systems in place (Jews and Samaritans still had separate places of worship). The story ended with Samaritans becoming reconciled to God, and recognizing Jesus Christ)
- ❖ The Bible redeems slavery (takes something terrible, makes it good)
  - Our Master has become our servant

*Philippians 2:5-7 - Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity.*

*Mark 10:45 - For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

➤ We become His slaves

*Romans 1:1 - Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God*

## **Modern Day Slavery**

- ❖ MYTH - Slavery doesn't happen in America anymore. Just in undeveloped countries
- ❖ FACT - California is one of three states (the other two being Florida and Texas) most affected by human trafficking (modern day slavery).
  - In 2016, The FBI has identified Los Angeles as one of 13 "High Intensity Child Prostitution" areas in the United States.
- ❖ MYTH - "It was much worse back then"
- ❖ FACT - There are more slaves today than were seized from Africa in four centuries of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. In fact, there are more slaves in the world today than at any other point in human history, with an estimated 21 million across the globe.
- ❖ MYTH - "Human trafficking is rare"
- ❖ FACT - According to a report by the Congressional Research Service, it is more profitable for a trafficker to prostitute a child than to commit other crimes such as dealing in drugs. "For one, the commodity (child) is reusable. In addition, technological innovation has allowed traffickers to reach a wider client base and connect more quickly with buyers."
- ❖ MYTH - "It's not that bad"
- ❖ FACT - According to Shared Hope International, children exploited through prostitution report they typically are given a quota by their trafficker/pimp of 10 to 15 buyers per night, though some service providers report girls having been sold to as many as 45 buyers in a night at peak demand times, such as during a sports event or convention. Utilizing a conservative estimate, a domestic minor sex trafficking victim who is rented for sex acts with five different men per night, for five nights per

week, for an average of five years, would be raped by 6,000 buyers during the course of her victimization through prostitution.

## Slavery and Pornography

- ❖ According to Human Trafficking Search
  - Pornography is used by traffickers to train sex trafficking victims
  - Traffickers force girls into pornography for a greater financial gain.
  - Interviews with women who spent time in the pornography industry are almost identical to the stories from sex trafficking victims.
  - During interviews with 854 women in prostitution in nine countries, In every country, almost half of the respondents said that they were forced to make pornography while enslaved in sex trafficking.
- ❖ Every click on a pornography video fuels the slavery industry.
  - Approximately 64% of Christian males and 15% of Christian females admit to watching pornography once a month
- ❖ If you are someone who is currently struggling with this sin....
  - Grow in your intimacy and love for God

*1 Corinthians 10:31 - So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.*

- ❖ Repent of all sin

*Psalm 51:3-4 - For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me. Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight.*

- ❖ Run from this sin

*Matthew 5:29-30 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of the parts of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.*

- ❖ Be accountable to someone

*Hebrews 3:12-13 - Watch out, brothers and sisters, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.*

- ❖ Understand the price Christ paid for your purity

*Galatians 3:13 - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.*

- ❖ Understand the eternal danger and destruction associated with sexual sin

*Ephesians 5:5 - For know and recognize this: Every sexually immoral or impure or greedy person, who is an idolater, does not have an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.*

- ❖ Rest in the delight of your right standing with God and future salvation

*Romans 8:1-2 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.*

*Philippians 3:20-21 - Our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly wait for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself.*

## **Objections/Questions:**

- ❖ Can Christians support "Black Lives Matter?"

- The plain truth of the slogan:

*Genesis 1:27 - So God created man in his own image; he created him in the image of God; he created them male and female.*

- The organization

- According to their website, the founders are three queer women

- As Christians, we must separate a simple truth from an organization diminish/distract/dilute the message of the God's Word

- ❖ Do "All Lives Matter?"

- Yes - Genesis 1:27

- However, responding this way could sound like a rebuke and cause harm to our African American Christians brothers and sisters

*Daniel 4:34-35 - "But at the end of those days, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven, and my sanity returned to me. Then I praised the Most High and honored and glorified him who lives forever: For his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are counted as nothing, and he does what he wants with the army of heaven and the inhabitants of the earth. There is no one who can block his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

#### ❖ Can Christian protest/lead revolutions?

*1 Thessalonians 4:11 - to seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business,<sup>[c]</sup> and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,*

- *What about MLK? Martin Luther? What about Paul? What about Jesus?*
- *Consider the context of the passage*

*1 Thessalonians 4:9-12 - About brotherly love: You don't need me to write you because you yourselves are taught by God to love one another. In fact, you are doing this toward all the brothers and sisters in the entire region of Macedonia. But we encourage you, brothers and sisters, to do this even more,<sup>11</sup> to seek to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, so that you may behave properly in the presence of outsiders and not be dependent on anyone*

- People were not working and running around spreading false ideologies and practices. Paul is basically saying "shut up and get to work"
- So how does this compare to message of Paul and Jesus starting uproars? Who runs the narrative in your life? What is your purpose behind protesting? Is it based on what the media is saying? Is it for what your friends are doing? Is it what you feel in your heart is right? Or... is it in the name of Christ, acting out of love? Cause this vastly change how you protest

#### ❖ What race were Adam and Eve? What race was Jesus?

- The Bible is God's revealed message that contains exactly what God wants us to know

*2 Peter 1:3 - His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence*

- The Bible only mentions physical features when it pertains to God's overall story **(THINK OF SAUL!)**
- Christians are to build theology around the character, personhood, and Deity of Christ, not what He looked like

*Isaiah 53:2 - He grew up before him like a young plant and like a root out of dry ground. He didn't have an impressive form or majesty that we should look at him, no appearance that we should desire him.*

❖ Can I still be proud of my race/ethnicity?

- Yes but this should not define you

*Ephesians 2:18-20 - For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*

- Your true identity should be found in Christ

*1 Peter 2:9-10 - But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

❖ Are there people born racist? Or is it learned?

❖ Does this quote line up with Scripture?

*"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate" - Nelson Mandela*

- The nature of hatred is something we are all born into

*Romans 8:7 - The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so.*

*Ephesians 2:3 - We too all previously lived among them in our fleshly desires, carrying out the inclinations of our flesh and thoughts, and we were by nature children under wrath as the others were also.*

- Racism ultimately stems from pride, which the Lord hates

*Proverbs 8:13 - To fear the Lord is to hate evil. I hate arrogant pride, evil conduct, and perverse speech.*

*Proverbs 16:5 - Everyone with a proud heart is detestable to the Lord; be assured, he will not go unpunished*

- The form of who or what someone hates is learned

*John 4:9 - "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.*

## **Practical Takeaways:**

- ❖ What can I do against racism and human trafficking?

- ❖ Pray

- Pray for the victims of racism and modern-day slavery
  - Pray for their strength

*Isaiah 40:29 - He gives strength to the faint and strengthens the powerless.*

- Pray for their protection and justice (and freedom for the enslaved)

*Psalms 82:4 - Rescue the poor and needy; save them from the power of the wicked.*

*Psalms 103:6 - The Lord executes acts of righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.*

- Pray for their healing

*Psalms 40:1-3 - I waited patiently for the Lord, and he turned to me and heard my cry for help. He brought me up from a desolate pit, out of the muddy clay, and set my feet on a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and they will trust in the Lord.*

- Pray for people who are racist and traffickers
  - Pray for conviction, repentance, and salvation

*Isaiah 55:7 - Let the wicked one abandon his way and the sinful one his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, so he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will freely forgive.*

*2 Timothy 2:24-25 - The Lord's servant must not quarrel, but must be gentle to everyone, able to teach, and patient, instructing his opponents with gentleness. Perhaps God will grant them repentance leading them to the knowledge of the truth.*

- Pray for systemic racist policies and criminal networks to be dismantled

*Psalms 7:9 - Let the evil of the wicked come to an end, but establish the righteous. The one who examines the thoughts and emotions is a righteous God.*

- Pray for any oppressors to be arrested and prosecuted

*Amos 5:15 - Hate evil and love good; establish justice at the city gate. Perhaps the Lord, the God of Armies, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.*

➤ Pray for the church

- To awaken to these issues

*Matthew 5:13-14 - "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt should lose its taste, how can it be made salty? It's no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. "You are the light of the world. A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden.*

- For advocates and ministry leaders to emerge

*Matthew 9:37-38 - Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."*

- To be united against injustice

*John 17:23 - I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.*

❖ Act

- Ask God to reveal any sinful thoughts/attitudes in your heart

- Do not participate in any degrading or demeaning speech against another race or ethnic group

*Ephesians 5:1-4 - Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints. Obscene and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks.*

- Speak out against the sinful nature of racism and pornography
- Develop deep friendships with those of other ethnicities, and listen carefully to them
- Let God's Word control the conversation about race, not culture
- Remember that all people are made in the image of God

❖ Serve

- Support a ministry that addresses the problem of slavery and consider ways you can be involved in their work
- Make others in the church aware of these issues, and pray together for the victims and strategize how to help
  - International Justice Mission - [ijm.org](http://ijm.org)

❖ Be united and advance the Kingdom!

*Psalms 133 - How delightfully good when brothers live together in harmony! It is like fine oil on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron's beard onto his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord has appointed the blessing—life forevermore.*

*Luke 24:46-48 - Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children, and walk in love, as Christ also loved us and gave himself for us, a sacrificial and fragrant offering to God. But sexual immorality and any impurity or greed should not even be heard of among you, as is proper for saints. Obscene and foolish talking or crude joking are not suitable, but rather giving thanks.*

*Matthew 28:19-20 - Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you*

*Revelation 21:1-5 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new."*