

What Racism Reveals About Our Faith

An Impartial God, a Partial Nation, and the Black Christian Conscience

War Room Prayer Line Student Handout Bible Study by Phone

Friday, October 2, 2026 | 7:00 AM ET | Facilitator: Ed Gray

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Central Thought

Racial partiality is conduct that contradicts the character of God and the truth of the gospel. God's kindness invites a changed mind, and our deeds reveal whether that change has reached our relationships, churches, and institutions.

Opening Question

Can faith in an impartial God coexist with racial partiality?

Key Biblical Movement

Question Discovery Drift Proof Consequence Return Invitation

The mirror exposes. Kindness invites change. Resistance hardens. Conduct reveals. Consequences emerge. Christ leads us back to impartial love.

Foundational Scriptures

- Romans 2:1–3 Judgment must examine the person speaking as well as the person being judged.
- Romans 2:4, 11 God's kindness leads to repentance, and God shows no partiality.
- Exodus 3:7–8 The impartial God sees unequal suffering and acts on behalf of the oppressed.
- Romans 2:5 A heart that repeatedly resists truth can become calloused.
- Matthew 24:12–13 Repeated lawlessness can cool love, while endurance preserves faithfulness.
- Galatians 2:11–14 Fear and social pressure can turn difference into public separation.
- James 2:1–4, 8–9 Partiality contradicts the royal law and is identified as sin.
- Psalm 139:23–24 God's examination keeps the pursuit of justice connected to God's character.

Scripture Reading Guide

Passage	What to Notice	Teaching Emphasis
Romans 2:1–3	Paul turns the mirror toward the person judging.	Moral discernment tells the truth. Moral superiority exempts itself from examination.
Romans 2:4, 11	God’s kindness leads toward repentance, and God shows no partiality.	Repentance changes what we see, defend, believe, and do.
Exodus 3:7–8	God sees, hears, knows, and comes down.	Impartiality is not indifference to unequal suffering.
Romans 2:5	Hardness develops through resistance to change.	A heart can grow hard one justification at a time.
Matthew 24:12–13	Lawlessness abounds, and love grows cold.	Faithful endurance resists injustice without surrendering character.
Galatians 2:11–14	Peter withdraws because of fear, and others follow him.	Private fear can become public culture and structural separation.
James 2:1–4, 8–9	Economic status determines seating and treatment.	Respect of persons violates the command to love our neighbor.
Romans 2:6–10	Deeds and consequences reveal direction.	Conduct shows whether truth has reached our formation.
Psalms 139:23–24	David invites God to search and lead him.	Self-examination strengthens rather than weakens the pursuit of justice.

Three Questions for Public Decisions

1. What harm was this protection or practice created to address?
2. Has that harm ended?
3. If the harm has not ended, what will protect people when the protection is removed?

Major Teaching Movements

The Question

- Romans 2 does not prohibit confronting injustice. It confronts hypocrisy and self exemption.
- The mirror must face systems exercising power and hearts responding to that power.
- Responsibility is not equal when power and harm are not equal, but no heart is beyond examination.

WRITE THIS DOWN The mirror must remain turned in both directions.

The Discovery

- God's impartiality does not mean God treats the taskmaster and the burdened person as equally responsible.
- Repentance is an awakening of the mind to truth and a realignment of our reasoning.
- Faith in an impartial God must eventually challenge partiality in the believer.

WRITE THIS DOWN God does not confuse the taskmaster with the person carrying the burden.

The Drift

- A heart grows hard when suffering is repeatedly dismissed, explained away, or defended.
- A calloused heart is not the same thing as an angry heart. Anger can reveal sensitivity to wrong.
- The question is what anger produces: truth and repair, or contempt and dehumanization.

WRITE THIS DOWN We can resist what is wrong without becoming what we resist.

The Proof

- Galatians 2 is not identical to modern racial classification, but it reveals how fear creates separation.
- Peter's private theology and public conduct told different stories.
- James addresses economic partiality and identifies the broader offense as respect of persons.

WRITE THIS DOWN His feet contradicted what his mouth confessed.

The Consequence

- Deeds do not purchase grace. They reveal direction and expose religious hypocrisy.
- Policies and collective choices produce consequences that explanations cannot erase.
- Compassion should never depend on whether someone voted as we did.

WRITE THIS DOWN Our faith is revealed by what happens at the table.

The Return and Invitation

- God's kindness still invites us to see again, examine the evidence, acknowledge harm, and change direction.
- Jesus crossed inherited boundaries and refused to let social categories determine whom he restored or called neighbor.
- Christ remains the Center and reveals impartial love entering a partial world.

WRITE THIS DOWN What am I hardening my heart to protect?

Discussion and Personal Reflection

1. Where do you see the difference between moral discernment and moral superiority?
2. How does Exodus 3 challenge the idea that impartiality means treating unequal situations as equal?
3. What repeated explanation can slowly make a heart less sensitive to another person's suffering?
4. What does Peter's movement away from the table teach us about fear, social pressure, and public conduct?
5. Where have churches or institutions proclaimed equality while arranging access, protection, or dignity unevenly?
6. How can righteous anger produce truth, protection, and repair without becoming contempt?
7. What would repentance look like if it became visible rather than remaining an apology?
8. What are you hardening your heart to protect?

This Week's Practice

Choose one belief, policy, or practice that you strongly defend. Ask what harm it addresses, who benefits, who bears its cost, and what fruit it produces. Read the related Scripture before reading commentary about it. Invite God to reveal where truth requires confirmation, correction, or repair.

Closing Declaration

Impartial God, search my heart and renew my mind. Give me courage to see what is true, humility to change what is wrong, and strength to persist in doing good. Keep my pursuit of justice centered in Christ. Teach me to confront harm without surrendering my soul to hatred. Let my conduct agree with the gospel I confess. In Jesus' name, amen.

Notes
