

## II. WHAT I CAN DO TO FIGHT RACISM AND PROMOTE RECONCILIATION.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of any racism, bigotry or prejudice in my heart.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord to help me overcome all such sinful attitudes.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ that I have “blind spots”.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ about diverse peoples, cultures, and traditions.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone respectfully.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ our differences in the Body of Christ.

The first decision all of us need to make is to be what God made us to be. If you are black say it loud, “I’m black and I’m proud”, if you are white say, “it’s alright”. No matter whether God made you red, brown, yellow, black or white you are, as the children’s score says, “precious in His sight”. If you feel any other way you are saying God failed when He made you.

Dr. Tony Evans

7. \_\_\_\_\_ your heart to someone who is different from me.

ANSWER KEY: all, unify, multicultural, rejects, judges, violates, denies, serious, prevents, Repent, Ask, Admit, Learn, Listen, Celebrate, Give



### THE NEED FOR THE CHURCH TO STAND UP AND SPEAK OUT

So often the contemporary church is a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an archdefender of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church’s silent—and often even vocal—sanction of things as they are.

But the judgment of God is upon the church as never before. If today’s church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## I. RACIAL RECONCILIATION IS AT THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL.

1. The Gospel is about God sending His Son to save \_\_\_\_\_ people.

God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die.

John 3:16 (CEV)

**2. God planned to \_\_\_\_\_ all people in the church.**

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. 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. 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.

Ephesians 2:14-18 (NLT)

We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free men or even merely men or women, but we are all the same—we are Christians; we are one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 (TLB)

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ church is a preview of a multicultural Heaven.**

After the vision of these things I looked, and there was a great number of people, so many that no one could count them. They were from every nation, tribe, people, and language of the earth. They were all standing before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They were shouting in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”

Revelation 7:9-10 (NCV)

## **II. WHY I MUST SPEAK OUT AGAINST RACISM.**

**1. Racism \_\_\_\_\_ that God created every person in His image.**

So God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female.

Genesis 1:27 (GOD’S WORD)

**2. Racism \_\_\_\_\_ people in ungodly ways.**

What a shame—yes, how stupid!—to decide before knowing the facts!

Proverbs 18:13 (TLB)

**3. Racism \_\_\_\_\_ the Greatest Commandment.**

Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT)

**4. Racism \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus came to save all people.**

So wherever you go, make disciples of all nations: Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to do everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20 (GOD’S WORD)

**5. Racism is a \_\_\_\_\_ sin.**

But if you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker.

James 2:9 (TEV)

**5. Racism \_\_\_\_\_ me from fulfilling my mission.**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 (NIV)