

Race and Racism in the U.S.

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Session 2: Why Gentile Lives Mattered to Paul and the Holy Spirit

This is the second of a six video episodes that address issues of race and racism that society faces currently, but that have been part of our history as a nation since its founding. In this episode we consider the story of Peter and Cornelius, where Peter's eyes are opened to what God was up to in bringing the Gospel to the outsiders. Yet, Peter still struggles to accept this new reality and must be told to his face by Paul, that he was clearly in the wrong.

Scripture: Acts 10-11

Questions for Discussion

1. How did Conrad's presentation help you to think differently about race and racism from a Biblical perspective?
2. What do we learn from the Scripture text about how the Spirit worked to expand the church's understanding of the Gospel message?
3. What are the implications for today in terms of what the Spirit just might be up to?
4. Can you think of other Old or New Testament stories where God does a similar thing to expand knowledge of himself for the sake of saving others who have been excluded?
5. Why was Peter the one to whom the Spirit came to reveal God's truth about the Gentiles?
6. In what ways have our responses to racism reflected the difficulty of the early church in embracing the Gentiles?
7. What questions remain for you regarding what you've heard or that we've discussed today?