



Justice & Reconciliation

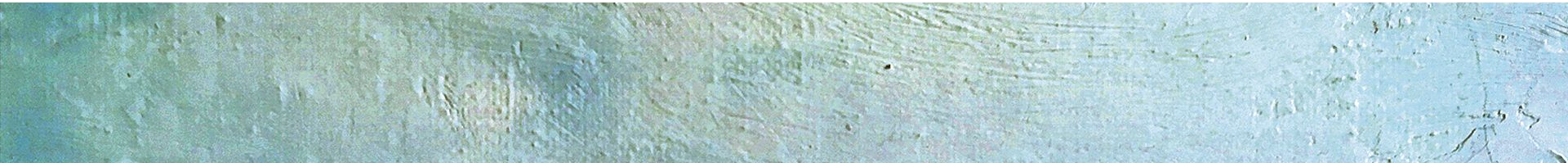
THE WHOLE GOSPEL

Reconnecting the Gospel to Justice & Reconciliation

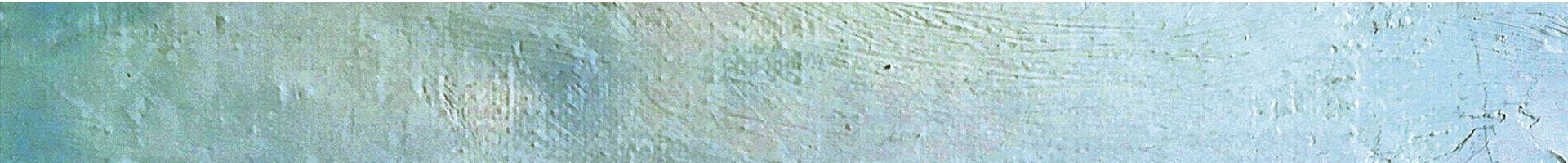


One of the greatest tragedies of the civil rights movement is that evangelicals surrendered their leadership in the movement by default to those with either a bankrupt theology or no theology at all, simply because the vast majority of Bible-believing Christians ignored a great and crucial opportunity in history for genuine ethical action. The evangelical church - whose basic theology is the same as mine - had not gone on to preach the whole gospel.

John Perkins

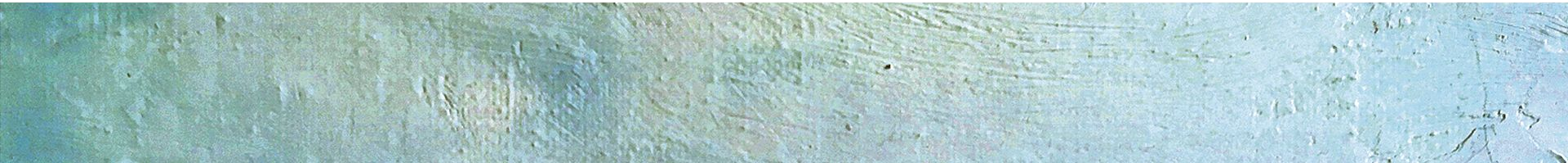


Reconnecting Justice & Reconciliation to Spiritual Formation

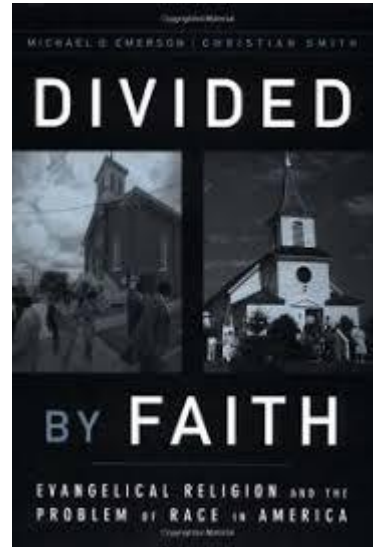
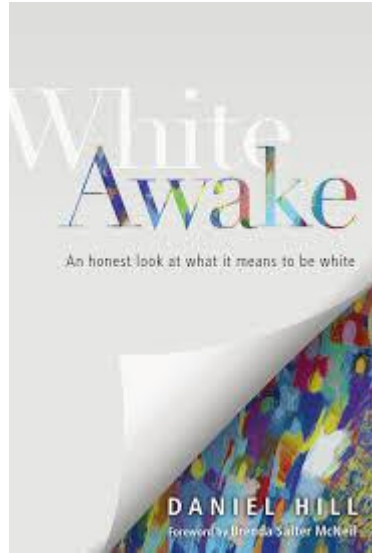
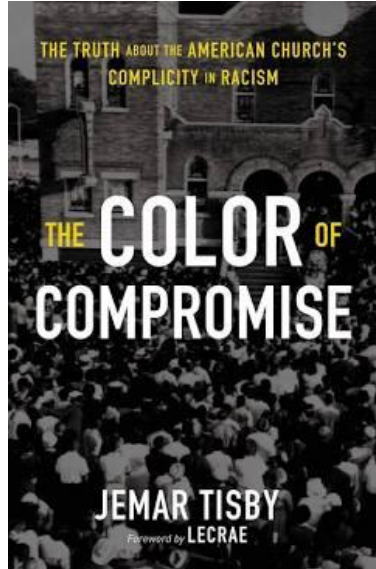


Spiritual Formation: Practicing the way of Jesus together for the life of the world

Justice & Reconciliation: Restoring people, places, and systems from hostility to harmony with God, others, and creation



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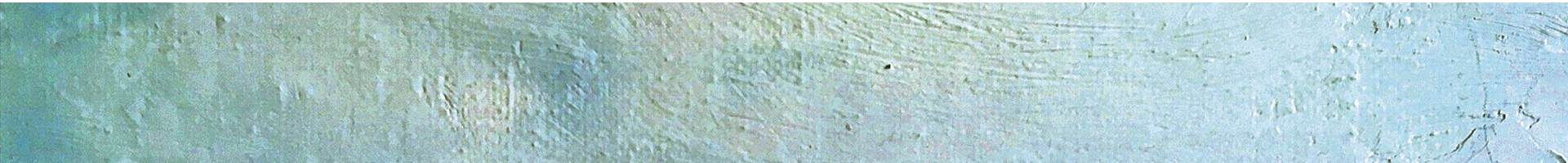


The background of the image is an abstract, textured surface composed of various shades of green and blue. The colors are blended together with visible, expressive brushstrokes, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is reminiscent of a painterly or watercolor-style background.

THE GOSPEL, JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:11-12



Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1:14-15

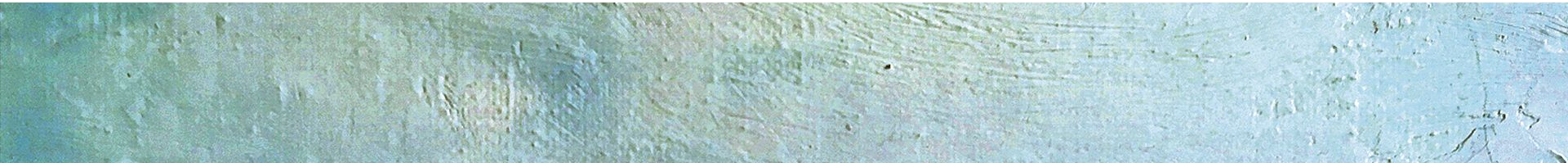


Gospel: the good news that God himself has come to rescue us from sin and to renew the world through the person and work of Jesus on our behalf, and to establish his kingdom through his people in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Shalom is the human being dwelling at peace in all his or her relationships: with God, with self, with fellows, with nature...what God desires for God's human creatures is that comprehensive mode of flourishing that is shalom. Shalom includes religious reconciliation; but it includes vastly more as well.

Nicholas Wolterstorff



Insofar as someone is suffering injustice, just insofar one of the goods to which that person has title, a good essential to her flourishing, is not being enjoyed by her. God's love of justice is grounded in God's longing for the shalom of God's creatures and in God's sorrow over its absence.

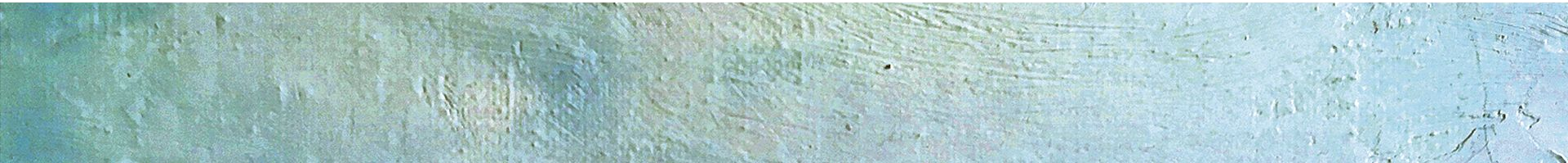
Nicholas Wolterstorff



Justice: rendering to every person their rights as image bearers of God.



- 1. God is just (Psa 89:14)**
- 2. God loves justice (Psa 33:5)**
- 3. God does justice (Psa 146:7-9)**
- 4. God commands his image bearers to imitate him by doing justice, especially toward the “quartet of the vulnerable.” (Zech 7:10-11)**
- 5. God’s plan is to reconcile the nations to himself and create a new society of shalom (Isa 49:6)**



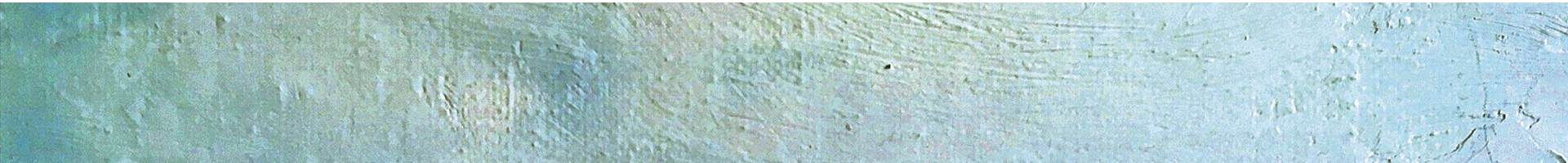
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

Psalm 89:14



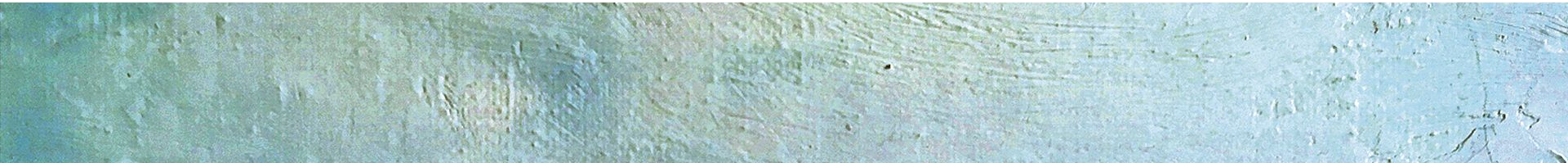
He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

Psalm 33:5



Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

Psalm 146:7-9



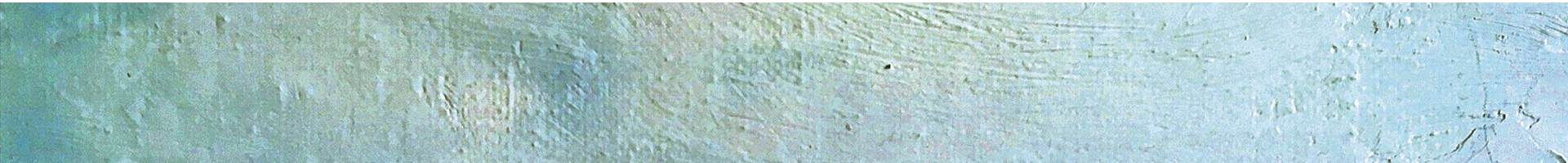
Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor, and let none of you devise evil against another in your heart.

Zechariah 7:10-11

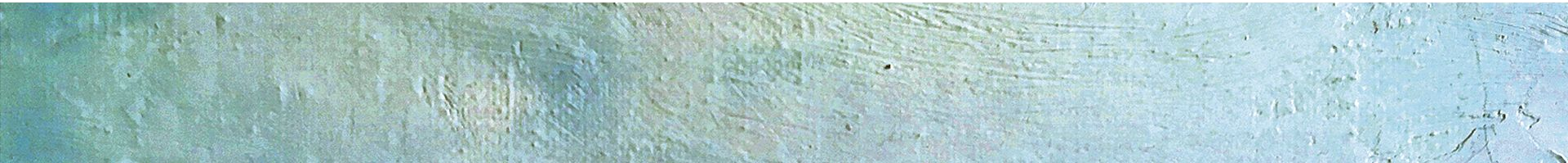


It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

Isaiah 49:6



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The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor...Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.

Luke 4:18-21



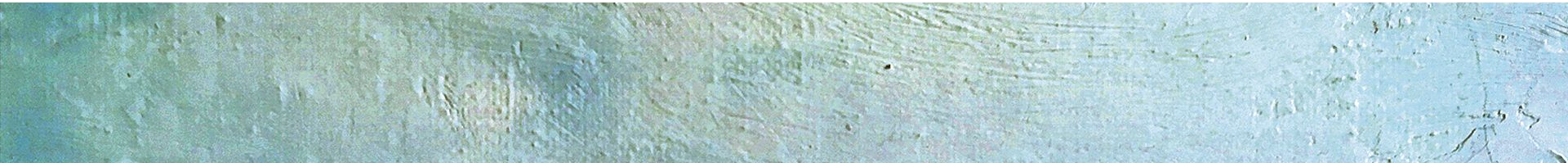
Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.

Matthew 23:23



Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

Matthew 12:18



I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John 17:23



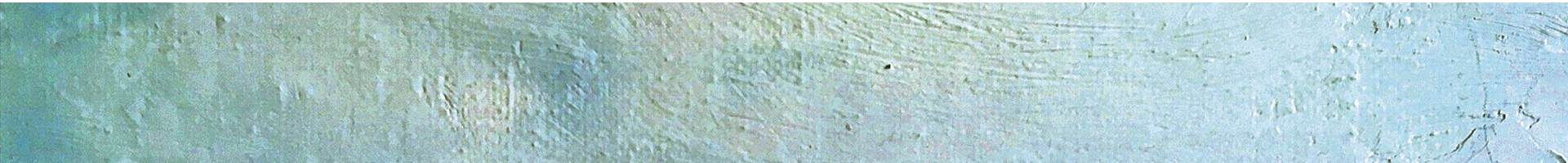
Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

John 14:12

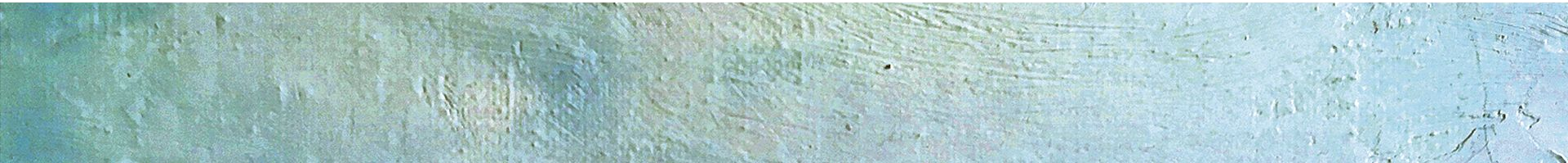


After Jesus' death, the Holy Spirit empowers the apostles to continue this work of multi-ethnic justice & reconciliation

- **Sends church to make disciples of all nations (Matt 28:18-20)**
- **Pentecost: thousands from different ethnic backgrounds added to the church (Acts 2)**
- **Not an economically needy person (Acts 4)**
- **Diverse leadership appointed to deal with first injustice over food distribution (Acts 6)**
- **Paul converted & called to Gentiles (Acts 9)**
- **Multi-ethnic church in Antioch called Christians (Acts 11)**



Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

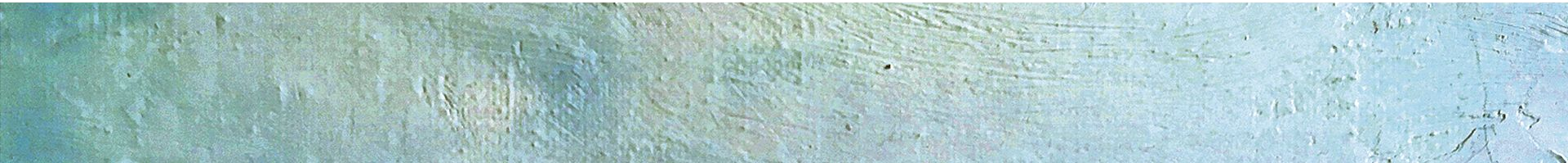


by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:11-18



Reconciliation: the restoring and healing process that grows out of God's divine act, involving the continual practice of forgiveness, repentance, and justice that transforms broken relationships, systems, and structures into the way God intends them to be.



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18



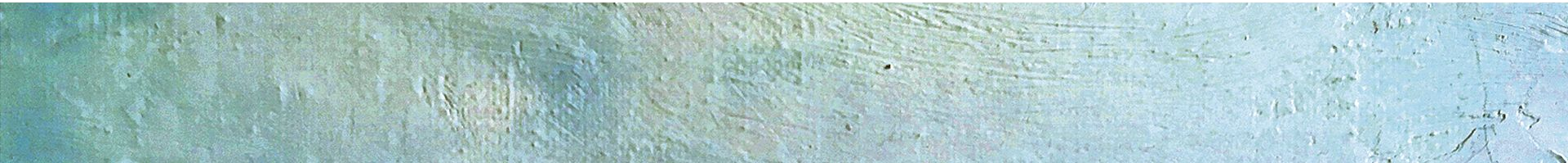


**WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS
MEAN FOR US TODAY?**

**Racial/ethnic injustice, exclusion,
or indifference preaches a false
gospel**

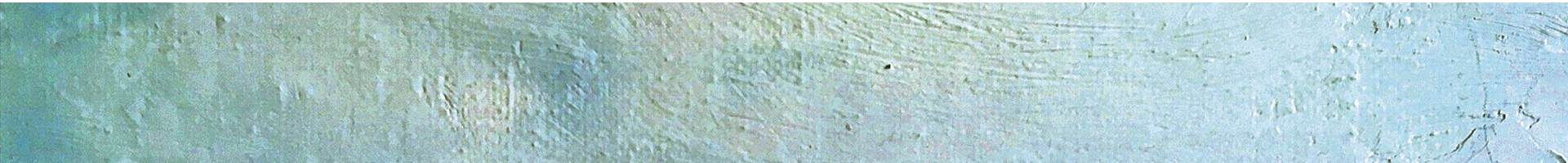


I have heard numerous religious leaders of the South call upon their worshipers to comply with a desegregation decision because it is the law, but I have longed to hear white ministers say, follow this decree because integration is morally right and the Negro is your brother. In the midst of blatant injustices inflicted upon the Negro, I have watched white churches stand on the sidelines and merely mouth pious irrelevancies and sanctimonious trivialities.

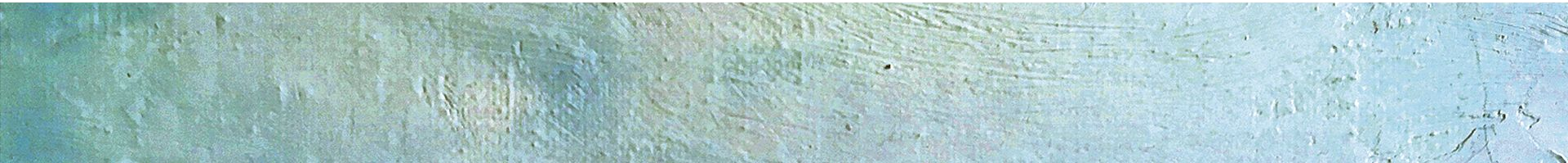


In the midst of a mighty struggle to rid our nation of racial and economic injustice, I have heard so many ministers say, 'Those are social issues which the gospel has nothing to do with,' and I have watched so many churches commit themselves to a completely otherworldly religion which made a strange distinction between bodies and souls, the sacred and the secular.

Dr. Martin Luther King



**Disrupting racism requires the
church to reclaim her prophetic
voice**



The system of race that we've created in America is fraught with sin, and it has played a powerful role in shaping the sense of identity of every human being who has lived here. Therefore it would be naive for devoted followers of Jesus to believe they can pursue the transformation of identity in Christ without also acknowledging the power of sin as evidenced by the impact of race.

Daniel Hill



Our old self has been profoundly shaped by race, and we can't grow into the new and redeemed self without naming the presence of that sin, confessing the ways it has impacted us, and doing all we can to break free of its former power.

Daniel Hill

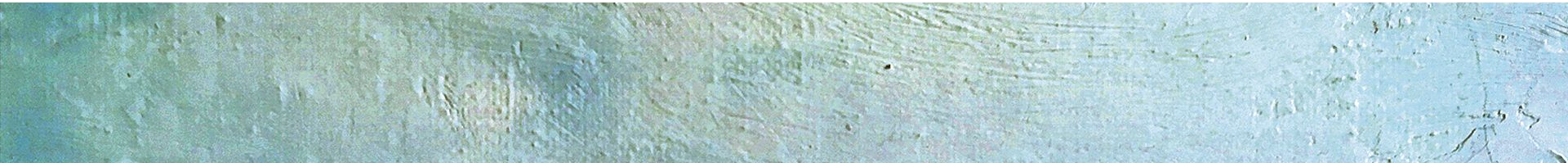


**Racial/ethnic injustice & division
are not inevitable or ultimate.**



And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.

Revelation 5:9-10



Spiritual Formation Guide

www.somaindy.com/spiritual-formation/

Invitation	Resistances	Limitations	Practice(s)	Support
Scriptural Anchor:	External:		1)	Friends:
	Internal:		2)	Guides:
<p>God is always speaking & inviting us to the work of change. The first step is declaring your desire. Ask yourself: <i>What matters most to me right now? What single change could make the greatest impact in my life?</i></p> <p>Once you've decided, list your invitations as positive statements beginning with "I want...". Include a Scripture reference to anchor you in God's promises.</p>	<p>Everyone has learned resistances that protect us from the pain of change. On the top, ask yourself: <i>What things do I do, or not do, that get in the way of my desired change?</i></p> <p>On the bottom list your fears related to changing with "I'm afraid..." List the hidden commitments that flow from your fears with "I'm really committed to..."</p>	<p>Accepting our limitations keeps us grounded in reality. Limitations include season of life, health conditions, work, and relational systems. Ask yourself: <i>What circumstantial limitations do I need to accept as part of my current reality? What pain do I need to make peace with instead of avoiding?</i></p> <p>List your limitations with "I surrender..."</p>	<p>Formation practices help us align our whole person to God's loving invitations for our lives. Ask yourself: <i>Which practices could be most helpful in forming new habits, beliefs, and feelings that break through my resistances and free me to God's invitation?</i></p> <p>List these practices with "I commit..." Be sure to identify specific rhythms (time, place) that you want to create.</p>	<p>Ask yourself: <i>Who has God placed around me that is safe, trustworthy, and available to support me? Who is not currently represented in my life that needs to be here?</i></p> <p>List your support team by name with "I trust..." along with how you feel they could best serve you in this season and how often you plan to meet with them (individually or as a group).</p>



- 1) Sabbath Way of Life
- 2) Prayer
- 3) Scripture
- 4) Justice & Reconciliation**
- 5) Owning Your Story
- 6) Living Into Your Identity
- 7) Making Disciples
- 8) Simplicity & Generosity
- 9) Fasting
- 10) Eating & Drinking
- 11) Healing the Sick