

Bible Study

Bishop Sally Dyck

Matthew 16:13-16

John 21:15-17

Acts 10:34-35 & 11:15-18

The First Conversion of Peter

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” (Matthew 16:13-16)

The Second Conversion of Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”
(John 21:15-17)

The Third Conversion of Peter

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. (Acts 10:34-35)

The Third Conversion of Peter

¹⁵ And as I (Peter) began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." (Acts 11:15-18)

Social Principles Par. 162A

Rights of Racial and Ethnic Persons—Racism is the combination of the power to dominate by one race over other races and a value system that assumes that the dominant race is innately superior to the others. Racism includes both personal and institutional racism.

Personal racism is manifested through the individual expressions, attitudes, and/or behaviors that accept the assumptions of a racist value system and that maintain the benefits of this system.

Institutional racism is the established social pattern that supports implicitly or explicitly the racist value system. Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself.

In many cultures white persons are granted unearned privileges and benefits that are denied to persons of color. We oppose the creation of a racial hierarchy in any culture. Racism breeds racial discrimination. We define racial discrimination as the disparate treatment and lack of full access and equity in resources, opportunities, and participation in the Church and in society based on race or ethnicity...

The vows of membership in the UMC *begin with...*

- “Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?”
- The second one is like unto it: “do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”

The vows of membership

- Does racism fit into the “spiritual forces of wickedness...” and anti-racism calls us to “resist evil, injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?”
- Following those two vows of baptism membership, *then* we confess “Jesus Christ as (our) Savior, put (our) whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as (our) Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.”

What's your privilege?

- English is your first language
- One or both of your parents went to college.
- If when you find Band-Aids at a mainstream drugstore, they blend into or match your skin tone.
- If your household employs people to help, such as to clean, garden, etc.

What's your privilege?

- If you move through life without concern about being sexually assaulted.
- If you studied the culture of your ancestors in elementary school.
- if you never have to think twice about calling the police when trouble occurs.
- If you never have had “the talk” with your sons about how to stay alive when the police stops them.
- If you don't live in an area that has a lot of crime and drug activity.

What's your privilege?

- If you have never felt uncomfortable about a joke related to your race.
- If you have never been asked to speak on behalf of your ethnic/racial group.
- If when you make a mistake, people don't immediately attribute your behavior to flaws in your racial group.
- If you've always assumed you'd go to college.
- If your parents told you that you can be anything you want to be.

What's your privilege?

- How many had 10-14 hash marks?
- How many had 6-9?
- How many had 1-5?