

Oneness Embraced Study Guide

based on Dr. Tony Evans' book & developed by Crossroads Fellowship Racial Harmony Task Force

Outline Session 1: Introduction to Embracing Racial Oneness

Video highlights:

- The plague of racial divisions in the U.S. and in the Christian Church
- Operating from a Kingdom perspective and agenda
- Racial amalgamation vs. God's design: Not sameness but oneness
- Why is unity important?
- Jesus' high priestly prayer
- Solving the issue of unity by the Church
- Breaking down the dividing wall
- The process of emulsification
- The blood of Christ as the unifying agent

Discussion Questions Session 1: Embracing Racial Oneness

Icebreaker: What is a hard thing you've done before and were so glad you did?

1. Dr. Evans says the goal of racial unity is not sameness, but oneness. What does that mean to you?

2. Read Eph. 2:13-22. Dr. Evans used the analogy of the emulsifier in mayonnaise to discuss what unity means. Have you experienced real unity within diversity?

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the

Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

3. Dr. Evans said that the church is blocking the Glory of God by its division. James 2:1-10 describes sinful discrimination in the early church that was strongly condemned. How do we consciously or unconsciously discriminate?

James 2:1-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? 7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called? 8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

4. Dr. Evans talked about how the Kingdom of God values our diversity more than our culture does. What does it look like to value diversity?

5. How would you like to see Christians speak out concerning racial oneness in the church and in society?

Challenge: Would you prayerfully consider conversing with someone outside this group about this topic? It could be a spouse, a friend, coworker, or other trusted person.