

Oneness Embraced Study Guide

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

Outline Session 2: The Kingdom of God Defines Us

Video highlights:

- What color is God?
- The story of the Samaritan Woman in John 4
- In spite of what the culture said, Jesus elevated the spiritual above the race/culture.
- When you are willing to deal with a person's person you get quicker access to a person's soul and sins.
- Never let racial identity interfere with biblical truth.
- Paul's confrontation with Peter in Galatians 2.
- The preachers must get the truth right for the followers to get it right.
- The gospel is not only about how you get to heaven. It is about the unity that God gives to his people.
- Galatians 2:20
- Your identity is to be in Christ, not culture. As long as culture supports Christ, enjoy it.
- When culture diverts from Christ, your culture is wrong, not Christ.

Discussion Questions Session 2: The Kingdom of God Defines Us

Icebreaker: What is your earliest memory of racial differences?

John 4:7-26 (NASB)

7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Therefore the Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." 11 She said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where then do You get that living water? 12 You are not greater than our

father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself and his sons and his cattle?”

13 Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; **14** but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.” **15** The woman *said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty nor come all the way here to draw.” **16** He *said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.” **17** The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; **18** for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.” **19** The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. **20** Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you *people* say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.” **21** Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. **22** You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23** But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. **24** God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **25** The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” **26** Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

Galatians 2:11-21 (NASB)

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **12** For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he *began* to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. **13** The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. **14** But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews? **15** “We *are* Jews by nature and not

sinners from among the Gentiles; **16** nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified. **17** But if, while seeking to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have also been found sinners, is Christ then a minister of sin? May it never be! **18** For if I rebuild what I have *once* destroyed, I prove myself to be a transgressor. **19** For through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live to God. **20** I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **21** I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.”

1. What are some key points concerning God's view of race from either the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4 or Paul's confrontation of Peter in Galatians 2?
2. What are your thoughts about Dr. Evans' statement that the gospel is not just about how to get to heaven, but about unity?
3. How do you relate to the idea that culture sometimes determines your actions more than your faith?
4. What will you do differently this week because of what you just heard?

Challenge: Think of someone in your life that your culture tells you that you don't need to associate with. Can you try to step over the barriers and reach out to that person this week?