

PATHWAY TO RACIAL RECONCILIATION PRAYER PRIMER



“Yet even now,” says the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. **Joel 2:12-13**

1 PRAISE

Lift up your voice and praise God for his goodness, for how God loves ALL people and shows no partiality. Thank God that He is our righteous judge and a lover of justice! (Ps. 7, Ps. 37, Acts 10)

2 HUMILITY

Ask God to reveal to you any blindspots or unknown biases you have carried. Take time to ask and wait on God, listening for the Spirit's voice to bring new awareness and conviction. (Ps. 139:23–24, James 4:10)

3 LAMENT

Go to God with any emotion you may feel (sadness, disappointment, anger, despair) over injustice we have seen with the recent killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and others impacted by racial violence. (Eccles. 3, Ps. 34:15–18)

4 CONFESSION

Confess your sin in thought, word and deed that God has revealed to you during the time of humility and lament. Ask that he continue to make your heart responsive to his voice, so that you can hear his gentle words of correction and respond to be a person of peace. (Joel 2:12-13, Proverbs 28:13)

5 REPENTANCE

Repent over intentional and unintentional ways that you have shown racial resentment, prejudice or discrimination. Repent over any revealed pride, hard-heartedness, or feelings of superiority/inferiority. (Acts 10, James 4:8)

6 FORGIVENESS

After a time of repentance, ask God to cleanse and purify you from unrighteousness. Wait on God to receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit who desires to pour out on all flesh. (1 John 1:7–9, Acts 2)

7 RELATIONSHIPS

Pray for friends who need encouragement or conviction. Pray and ask God for wisdom and courage to seek new friendships that will grow your understanding and appreciation for all God's people. Pray for our seminary-wide racial reconciliation “Be the Bridge” student groups that they will learn from one another and grow together as they seek God's heart for justice in the world. (Rom. 12:9–2, Gal 6:2)

8 JUSTICE

Pray for those who are subverting justice – lift them up to our righteous judge. Pray that God would heal our justice system so that it would be fair for everyone and that those who have committed crimes be brought to justice (Amos 5:24, Psalm 9:4-10)

9 LEADERS

Pray for our leaders – local, state, national and global – that they would know God's heart for justice and understand the plight of the oppressed. As we approach the election in the U.S., pray that God would raise up leaders who would do justice, love mercy and walk humbly before him and would lead our nation to do the same. (1 Timothy 2:1-2, Micah 6:8)

10 HEALING

Pray for those who use their power to oppress, for lovers of violence, white supremacists, and/or those who subvert justice. Commit them to our Righteous Judge, asking that their wicked deeds be exposed and stopped. Pray against the enemy's attack and of fleshly works which sow division, discrimination, derogatory language, and hatred. (Ps. 9, Eph 6:12, Galatians 5:16-26,)

11 CHURCH

Pray for disciples of Jesus Christ to lead by example, demonstrating how Christ followers are to be known by our love. Pray that the church would not be complicitly silent, but would take a stand for righteousness and be agents of reconciliation. (John 13, 2 Cor. 5)

12 ENGAGE

As we conclude our time of prayer and fasting, ask God to show you the next right steps. Invite the Lord to bring people into your life from whom you can listen, learn, serve and be served. Ask him to renew your mind with his transformative power so that you don't live as culture dictates, but as a disciple of Christ. (Romans 12:1-2, Isaiah 58)