



Racial-Justice Ministry Team

July 27, 2020

Agenda:

Prayer/Scripture/Cultural Shift

Lesson on race/racism

Break

Lesson on White Privilege

Small Groups

Goals for tonight:

- Provide a broad, working definition for racism.
- Develop tools for identifying racism and how it effects our lives.
- Discuss White Privilege/Surplus Suffering.



Genesis 1: <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness....

<sup>27</sup> So God created humankind in (God’s) image,  
in the image of God (God) created them;  
male and female (God) created them.

Mark 2: When (Jesus) returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup> So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup> Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.



### Cultural Shift in our Congregations

- We have lots of room, we just don't make space.
- Culture of listening as much as talking.
 

Acts 2: <sup>5</sup> Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. <sup>6</sup> And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. <sup>7</sup> Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? <sup>8</sup> And how is it that **we hear, each of us, in our own native language?**
- Is Pentecost a miracle of the mouth (Speak the good news) or the ear (Hear the good news).
- Challenging topics/conversations WILL NOT kill you!!!
- Take time to breathe.
- Trust LOVE can handle it!!! (Ephesians 4: <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love.....)



### **Race**

- **Race is not real from a** biological or theological perspective.
- Bad theology/Pseudo science is used to justify race. (Curse of Ham/Eugenics/Evolution as applied to humans).
- Race is socio-political in that it exists to determine winners and losers, normal and abnormal, superior and inferior based simply on the color of one's skin.
- Race is static and in some ways changes based upon who is deciding what race somebody is ascribed to.

It is very difficult to rid ourselves of something that doesn't even exist yet permeates every aspect of our lives!!!



### **Race**

Definition of race- Race is a specious (intentionally deceptive and untrue) socio/biological classification created by Europeans during the time of world wide colonial expansion, to assign human worth and social status, using themselves as the model of humanity, for the purpose of legitimizing white power and white skin privilege.

(Dr. Maulana Karenga – People’s Institute for Survival and Beyond)

The concept of race/different races grabbed a firm holding in the 1500’s.

- 1450 Printing press.
- 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue. (Christopher – Christ Bearer)
- 1517 Luther and the Reformation.
- European powers at war.
- Further exploration throughout the Americas, Africa and Asia.

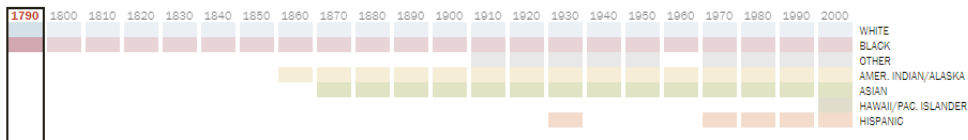


**Delaware Maryland SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

## What Census Calls Us: A Historical Timeline

1960 onward: People could choose their own race.

2000 onward: Americans could be recorded in more than one race category on the census form.



### 1790

AMERICANS WERE RECORDED IN THESE RACE/ETHNICITY CATEGORIES ON THE CENSUS FORM.

Free white males, Free white females
All other free persons
Slaves

### 2010

LATEST CENSUS

White
Black, African American or Negro
Some other race
American Indian or Alaska Native

Click image to enlarge.

The Return for SOUTH CAROLINA having been made since the foregoing Schedule was originally printed, the whole Enumeration is here given complete, except for the N. Western Territory, of which no Return has yet been published.

DISTRICTS	Free white Males of 16 and upwards, including heads of families	Free white Males under 16 years	Free white Females of 16 and upwards, including heads of families	Free white Females under 16 years	Slaves.	Total.
<i>Farwest</i>	22435	22328	40505	255	10	85539
<i>N. Hampshire</i>	56086	54852	70160	490	15	127418
<i>Maine</i>	24384	24742	46870	537	20	56540
<i>Massachusetts</i>	95423	87289	120582	540	20	178787
<i>Rhode Island</i>	16020	15799	32072	1407	54	54845
<i>Connecticut</i>	60523	54403	117448	2808	2704	137946
<i>New York</i>	83700	78122	153220	4654	21384	160136
<i>New Jersey</i>	42821	41416	11887	2761	11441	84439
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	110788	106948	208363	6137	3737	434373
<i>Delaware</i>	11783	11143	21384	3890	887	15094
<i>Maryland</i>	55915	51382	101305	3043	10305	119718
<i>Virginia</i>	110930	116135	215040	13860	13165	247610
<i>Kentucky</i>	11112	17057	28944	114	1438	23677
<i>N. Carolina</i>	69208	77516	140710	4975	10057	153751
<i>S. Carolina</i>	35576	37728	66880	1801	10709	110973
<i>Georgia</i>						



**Delaware  
Maryland SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

### Census Categories

1790

2010 (cont.)

	Chinese
	Japanese
	Filipino
	Korean
	Asian Indian
	Vietnamese
	Other Asian
	Native Hawaiian
	Samoan
	Guamanian or Chamorro
	Other Pacific Islanders
	Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano [+]
	Puerto Rican
	Cuban
	Another Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin



### **Race**

The races were broken into the following categories-

- Caucasoid- (Caucus mountains in Russia)
- Mongoloid- (Asia/Mongolia)
- Australoid- (Aboriginalas of Australia)
- Negroid- (Not a land based name. No land, no home).

A person's race could literally change based upon the state line they were crossing into. For instance in Florida you had to be 1/8<sup>th</sup> black to be considered black (one great grandparent), in Alabama it was 1/16<sup>th</sup> or (one great-great grandparent). The designation of one's "race" has long determined a persons destiny of where they could live, work, attend school, marry, bank, etc.

If race is real or fixed then how can your race change when you cross a state line?

Irish – Need not apply.





### **Racism**

- Power – the ability to act as desired.
- Systemic Power is the legitimate/legal ability to access and/or control those institutions sanctioned by the state.
- Politics – the process by which it is decided who has the POWER to act.
  - Church- who gets to choose the sanctuary carpeting?
  - Country- who gets to decide how money is allocated?
  - Family- who gets to decide where you go for vacation?
- Prejudice – to prejudge someone or something without any relation to them.
- Privilege – a special right, advantage, access or immunity available only to a particular person or group. (Oldest/youngest child, bosses kid, Jeffery Epstein).

### **Racism = Institutional Power X Group Prejudice**

Since the time of first contact, every system and every institution in the U.S. that was created by Europeans and European Americans was structured legally and intentionally to serve the white society exclusively or in superior ways.



### *Racism*

#### Individual

#### Systemic

**Internalized**

**Institutional**

**Interpersonal**

**Structural**

**Internalized** – lies within an individual. The private beliefs and views which lie in our minds about “others”. (ex.- prejudice, xenophobia, homophobia, internalized oppression/superiority, may be conscious or unconscious, often reinforced by dominant culture).

**WE ALL INTERNALIZE RACISM – SOCIAL QUES, MEDIA, IMAGES, EDUCATION**



Delaware  
Maryland **SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA





### **Racism**

#### **Individual**

Internalized

**Interpersonal**

#### **Systemic**

Institutional

Structural

**Interpersonal** – occurs between individuals once we bring privately held beliefs into interaction with others. (public expressions of hate, prejudice, bias, discrimination and bigotry).

Name calling, racist tweets, etc. Usually followed by “I am not a racist..... I have.....black friends, etc.” If you have to clarify you are not a racist.....well.....



### *Racism*

#### Individual

Internalized

Interpersonal

#### Systemic

**Institutional**

Structural

**Institutional** – Discriminatory treatment, unfair policies and practices, and inequitable opportunities, and impacts based on a communities composition.

School system which concentrates people of color into overcrowded, underfunded schools. ELCA practice with pastors who are female, gay, persons of color or all three limited in the calls they can receive.



### *Racism*

#### Individual

Internalized

Interpersonal

#### Systemic

Institutional

**Structural**

**Structural-** Biases across institutions and society. It has an cumulative and compounded effects, of an array of factors that systematically give advantage to some and disadvantage to others.

The effects of racism on majority communities of color. Food deserts, schools, housing, policing, health care, parks, recreation, public safety.



### **Racism**

#### White racism vs. Black racism?

- White racism, tell me the ways in which white racism adversely impacts the lives of black people as a group?
- Tell me the ways in which black racism adversely impacts the lives of white people as a group?
- Where do you see a group of Black/Brown people in power making decisions which directly impact White communities?
- Where do you see a group of White people in power making decisions which directly impact Black communities?



### **White Privilege**

White privilege exists because of historic, enduring racism and biases!  
White privilege packs a double whammy that inspires pushback.

- 1) The word *white* creates discomfort among those who are [not used to being defined or described by their race](#).
- 2) 2) the word *privilege*, especially for poor and rural white people, sounds like a word that doesn't belong to them—like a word that suggests they have never struggled. (From Teaching Tolerance).
- 3) john powell – speaks about “surplus suffering”.

The more complicated truth: White privilege is both unconsciously enjoyed and consciously perpetuated. It is both on the surface and deeply embedded into American life. It is a weightless knapsack—and a weapon.





### **White Privilege**

White people's skin tone will not be a reason people hesitate to trust their credit or financial responsibility.

If white people are accused of a crime, they are less likely to be presumed guilty, less likely to be sentenced to death and more likely to be portrayed in a fair, nuanced manner by media outlets.

The personal faults or missteps of white people will likely not be used to later deny opportunities or compassion to people who share their racial identity.

This privilege is invisible to many white people because it seems reasonable that a person should be extended compassion as they move through the world. It seems logical that a person should have the chance to prove themselves individually before they are judged. It's supposedly an American ideal.

But it's a privilege often not granted to people of color—with dire consequences.

VIDEO ILLUSTRATION OF RACISM/WHITE PRIVILEGE  
IN OUR EVERY DAY LIVES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge7i60GuNRg>