Elephant In The Room – Week 2

Main Idea: This week we continue in our new series called Elephant In The Room where we are talking about issues the church tends to tiptoe around. Today we are going to be discussing race and how Christians should respond to these issues.

Opening Discussion Question:

Have you ever felt like you didn’t belong somewhere or that people in a certain place made you feel different from them? What happened and how did that make you feel? Share your story with the group.

Read: Galatians 3:28

1. What were you taught about race growing up? How have you seen others respond to people of different races through your life?
   a. People overemphasize race.
   b. Some people don’t care about race.
   c. Others hate people of different races.

2. Even today, racism is a very real issue. Regardless of the color of your skin everyone experiences this kind of prejudice differently. How have you experienced racism?
   a. Answers will vary

Read: Acts 10:28

3. Even the early church had problems with racism. What kind of differences did they see? How are those similar to today? In what ways do you think they hurt the church then and, in a similar way, hurt the church now?
   a. They segmented people by nationality.
   b. People were ostracized because of their birth place.

4. What do you think the Bible says about race? Why should Christians be the first to receive people from any race?
   a. God created all people.
   b. All people sin and fall short of God’s glory.
   c. We are to consider others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:1-3).
5. What are some practical ways the church can work to bring people of different races together? What are some ways you can do the same in your own life?

   a. Answer will vary

Next Steps:

Reflect this week on how some of the views you may hold about those with a different skin color that don’t match what God’s Word says. How can these cause fractions in the church? Also, take some time to reflect on how you can love people, regardless of skin color, the way Christ loves them. Take a sheet of paper and draw a line from top to bottom down the middle. On the left side write down any ways you may be ostracizing people because of skin color. On the other side write down ways you can include them and love them. Take some time each day to pray over the list you created and ask God to help you show His love to those around you.

Reading Plan
Sunday – Philippians 2
Monday – Genesis 2
Tuesday – 1 Corinthians 13
Wednesday – Genesis 3
Thursday – John 3:1-21
Friday – Psalm 139
Saturday – Galatians 3