



Racial Reconciliation

SUNDAY

“For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death.”

EPHESIANS 2:14-16, CSB

How to Talk to Your Teen About Race

BY KENDAL CONNER

At the leading edge of most cultural movements in our country's history, you can find a single commonality, youth. The civil rights and anti-war movements were carried on the feet of passionate Baby Boomers; Generation X took up the mantle for the third wave of feminism; and Millennials made their mark during Occupy Wall Street and the #MeToo Movement.

If history holds true, Gen Z will carry the torch of justice then pass it along to the generation following after them. This is why we cannot afford to stay silent with our teens on issues of race and racial injustice.

Gen Z has not only been identified as a generation of justice warriors but it is also America's first truly post-Christian generation. In his book *Meet Generation Z*, James Emery White unpacks evidence that reveals this generation's biblical illiteracy.

When justice is found outside of the gospel, it is not true justice. And when the gospel we speak is void of justice, it is less than biblical.

But where do we begin?

1. We have to keep in mind that this will not be a one-and-done conversation. If we are going to approach the conversation of race with teens, we must be willing to commit to walk the path of justice with them also.
2. The most common fear I hear from parents and leaders before broaching the conversation of race is their lack of knowledge. If God has placed you in a role where you have influence in a teenager's life, then you are the right person for this conversation.
3. We should seek to do our homework so that we understand this world's systemic brokenness. But conversations about race must always be, primarily, conversations about people—conversations about the beauty, value, and dignity of women and men made in God's image.
4. We must keep our conversations rooted in the Scriptures. Walking the full path of justice with our teens will mean seeking biblical, historical, cultural, and self awareness in the conversation. Our teens must see us view each cultural moment through the lens of the gospel, not viewing the Bible through the lens of each cultural moment.



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION