

DIGDEEPER

December 6, 2015
Ephesians 2:11-3:12 ([Listen](#))
Dr. Richard Rogers

THE BIG IDEA

The message of our redemption by a sovereign God must be shared with the world through the church. But it will not be heard clearly if we continue dividing ourselves along racial lines that devastate us and others. We must remind ourselves that we were at one time outside of the family of God, thank him for calling us in, and then go share this hope with others—regardless of their skin color. This is how the whole world will hear of our great God.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

What do people with different skin colors have in common with one another?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- In Ephesians 2:11-12, Paul divides all of mankind into two groups. What are the groups, and which one do you belong to? What implications does being in that group have on how you treat people who are different from you today?
- Think of your very best friends. What race, age, and socioeconomic status are they? What about your life makes it this way?
- When you think of the issue of race, do your habits and views look any different than the unbeliever who lives down the street? How so?
- Who were the last three people you shared the gospel with? In what ways were they like you, and in what ways were they different?

GO DEEPER

- Thabiti Anyabwile explains [how and why the roots of racism run so deeply](#) in our culture. He shows why we must dig deep in our souls to eradicate its poisonous root.
- Racism is favoritism. According to James, favoritism is sin and has no place in the church. Trillia Newbell explains [why racial favoritism is devastating and how to be aware of it](#). And Kevin deYoung shows [why racism is an offense to our God](#).
- In a majority white church, we need to be reminded that [normal Christianity isn't white](#).
- If you want to read more about the issue of racism and Christianity, check out [Bloodlines](#) by John Piper. You can even [download the entire book for free](#).

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Richard mentioned that we don't naturally drift toward unity. At DesiringGod.org, Jon Bloom says it another way by using [the metaphor of cold and warmth](#). The point of both is that spiritual growth in all areas takes work. Begin that work this week by examining your own heart in prayer and asking the Holy Spirit to reveal places where your heart has drifted from God and others. Start warming your heart by spending time alone with God in the Bible.