Oneness Embraced
A Video Series by Dr. Anthony Evans
Developed from his book by the same title

Video Topics

1. Embracing Racial Oneness
2. The Kingdom of God Defines Us
3. God is the Ultimate Independent
4. Debunking Racial Myths
5. Freedom and Justice for All
6. Key to Kingdom Oneness

For access to this series:
https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/196905

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Outline Session 1: Introduction Embracing Racial Oneness

Video highlights:
- The plague of racial divisions in the U.S. and in the Christian Church
- Operating from a Kingdom perspective and agenda
- Racial amalgamation vs. God's design: Not sameness but oneness
- Why is unity important?
- Jesus' high priestly prayer
- Solving the issue of unity by the Church
- Breaking down the dividing wall
- The process of emulsification
- The blood of Christ as the unifying agent

Discussion Questions Session 1:
Introduction Embracing Racial Oneness

Icebreaker: What is a hard thing you've done before and were so glad you did?

1. Dr. Evans says the goal of racial unity is not sameness, but oneness. What does that mean to you?

2. Read Eph. 2:13-22. Dr. Evans used the analogy of the emulsifier in mayonnaise to discuss what unity means. Have you experienced real unity within diversity?

Ephesians 2:13-22 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, 16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.
3. Dr. Evans said that the church is blocking the Glory of God by its division. James 2:1-10 describes sinful discrimination in the early church that was strongly condemned. How do we consciously or unconsciously discriminate?

James 2:1-10 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

2 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. 2 For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, 3 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? 7 Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

8 If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well. 9 But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

4. Dr. Evans talked about how the Kingdom of God values our diversity more than our culture does. What does it look like to value diversity?

5. How would you like to see Christians speak out concerning racial oneness in the church and in society?

Challenge: Would you prayerfully consider conversing with someone outside this group about this topic? It could be a spouse, a friend, coworker, or other trusted person.
Outline Session 2: The Kingdom of God Defines Us

Video highlights:
- What color is God?
- The story of the Samaritan Woman in John 4
- In spite of what the culture said, Jesus elevated the spiritual above the race/culture.
- When you are willing to deal with a person's person you get quicker access to a person’s soul and sins.
- Never let racial identity interfere with biblical truth.
- Paul's confrontation with Peter in Galatians 2.
- The preachers must get the truth right for the followers to get it right.
- The gospel is not only about how you get to heaven. It is about the unity that God gives to his people.
- Galatians 2:20
- Your identity is to be in Christ, not culture. As long as culture supports Christ, enjoy it. When culture diverts from Christ, your culture is wrong, not Christ.

Discussion Questions Session 2

The Kingdom of God Defines us

Ice Breaker: What is your earliest memory of racial differences?

1. What are some key points concerning God's view of race from either the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4 or Paul's confrontation of Peter in Galatians 2?

2. What are your thoughts about Dr. Evans' statement that the gospel is not just about how to get to heaven, but about unity?

3. How do you relate to the idea that culture sometimes determines your actions more than your faith?

4. What will you do differently this week because of what you just heard?

Challenge: Think of someone in your life that your culture tells you that you don't need to associate with. Can you try to step over the barriers and reach out to that person this week?
Outline Session 3 God is the Ultimate Independent

Video highlights:
• Humpty Dumpty revisited
• The failure of government intervention in bringing people together across racial/class lines
• We have allowed the politics of man to divide us racially.
• Political parties cannot usurp the roles that the people of the Kingdom of God have been uniquely called to.
• Joshua met the Captain of the Host of the Lord Joshua 5:13-15.
• God is not committed to Republicans or Democrats, but to himself, to his Kingdom.
• We must not allow the politics of men to interfere with the program of God.
• The government of this nation was wrong and the church authorized its wrongness. The unity of God's people is critical for the well-being of the nation.
• The example of abortion
• God wants us to define ourselves by his Kingdom. America needs the glory of God, not merely the votes of politicians and voters. If God is working for you, it really doesn't matter who you elect.
• Political affiliation of the Christian must be second to faith.

Discussion Questions Session 3:

God is the Ultimate Independent

Ice Breaker: Have you had any conversations this week about race relations with someone of different race? How did it go?

1. Which of the key points of this message stick out to you?

2. Was there anything in this video that challenged you or convicted you?

3. How did you feel when Dr. Evans said that “It is time for God's people to make the statement that their party is second to their faith and their political affiliation is second to their commitment to Christ”. Was that convicting or challenging?

4. What things would you like to see change in your personal life concerning God's Kingdom as it relates to racial harmony.
Read and pray over

II Chronicles 5:11-14. New American Standard Bible (NASB)
11 When the priests came forth from the holy place (for all the priests who were present had sanctified themselves, without regard to divisions), 12 and all the Levitical singers, Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun, and their sons and kinsmen, clothed in fine linen, with cymbals, harps and lyres, standing east of the altar, and with them one hundred and twenty priests blowing trumpets 13 in unison when the trumpeters and the singers were to make themselves heard with one voice to praise and to glorify the Lord, and when they lifted up their voice accompanied by trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and when they praised the Lord saying, “He indeed is good for His lovingkindness is everlasting,” then the house, the house of the Lord, was filled with a cloud, 14 so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.

Challenge: Reconciliation begins with listening. Talk with some of your friends who are from different cultural and/or racial backgrounds. Spend time listening to your friend's story, ask questions. Allow God to use you as an agent of active reconciliation.
Outline Session 4 Debunking Racial Myths

Video highlights:
- The "curse of Ham" teaching which has been very damaging to the Church.
- Christian Blacks can take great pride in black leaders in the Bible including
  - Jethro the priest of Midian, and father-in-law of Moses
  - Zephaniah son of Cushi wrote a book of the Bible,
  - Bathsheba was the mother of Solomon,
  - Rahab from Jericho was the mother of Boaz
  - Ruth from Moab was the great grandmother of David
  - Nimrod was a nation builder but not a godly leader.
- In the New Testament, there was the Ethiopian eunuch,
- Black leaders in the church in Antioch.
- Early Church Fathers who were Blacks included Augustine and Athenasius.
- Lastly, he mentioned the wife of Moses whom God defended.

Setting the story straight:
1. Ham was not cursed, Canaan was.
2. Not all Canaanites were cursed.
3. Not more than 3 generations were cursed in the Bible.
4. Jesus' death on the cross ended every curse.

Discussion Questions Session 4:

Debunking Racial Myths

Icebreaker: Can you think of a myth that was later proven to be false?

1. Share a belief that has been passed on to you or you have heard over the years with regards to another race that you since have found has no historical or factual merit?

2. Have you ever heard of the “Curse of Ham” teaching?

3. Imagine if the church had stood up and exposed the myth of Ham teaching 300 years ago. How do you think that could have changed history?

4. Dr. Evans mentioned a number of Bible heroes who were black. How does that impact your view of Blacks' contribution to our Christian heritage?

5. What part of church history are we missing due to racial bias?

Challenge: This week consider googling Black church leaders in history and see what you find.
Outline Session 5 Freedom and Justice for All

Video highlights:

- The lady with the torch beckoning the huddled masses to freedom for all.
- John 8:36 (NASB) \(^{36}\) So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.
- God's definition of justice and injustice
- Psalm 89:14. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.
- Ezekiel 16:49 \(^{49}\) Behold, this was the guilt of your sister Sodom: she and her daughters had arrogance, abundant food and careless ease, but she did not help the poor and needy.
- Freedom began in Genesis 3
- Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed,
- Leviticus 25. Jubilee could only occur after the Day of Atonement
- II Chronicles 15:6. Nation was crushed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every kind of distress.
- If God is your problem, only God is your solution!
- Unless we take the spiritual seriously, the social is in trouble.
- Removing God by illegitimate division based on race or culture or class invites chaos into the society
- Jesus holds up the cross and invites all to come. God's Church ought to be reflecting that.

Discussion Questions Session 5:

Freedom and Justice for All

Icebreaker: Can you quote the saying on the Statue of Liberty? What does this represent about America?

1. Dr. Evans mentioned that there is no freedom without justice. What does it mean for our fellow citizens who are not experiencing justice?
2. Let’s consider the concept of justice. Do you see injustice exhibited in the church and society?

3. When you hear the term “white privilege,” what do you think? Is there a way to use “white privilege” to benefit others?

4. What is the churches’ responsibility to help bring about justice in our society? How can individuals help bring about racial justice in our society?

Challenge: Consider God’s heart towards all people when you read Titus 3:1-3 (NASB). “Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men. For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”
Outline Session 6 The Key to Kingdom Oneness and Holding Back Evil through the Church:

Video highlights:
- Hurricane Katrina visit to New Orleans Failed levees
- The job of the church to restrict evil.
- The first mention of the Church in Matthew 16
- The function of the Church made up of individuals linked together to reflect and legislate the values of the Kingdom of God
- The Church as Heaven on Earth and the problem of the Church becoming just like the Earth
- Jesus' statement "I will build my Church". The keys are given to gain access.
- The purpose of the Church is the Kingdom, not the Church. Using the wrong keys will not work.
- The Church is the levee to keep Hell and Satan out.
- Unity is critical for the salvation of a nation. God has only given the Church access to him to overrule what the enemy is doing in society. The church as God's legislative body is very powerful and hell cannot stop it.

Discussion Questions Session 6:

The Key to Kingdom Oneness and Holding Back Evil through the Church:

Icebreaker: Share a time when you acted as a levee for someone or some situation.

1. Share your thoughts on the analogy Dr. Evans used of the church as a levee. What is the true purpose of the church?

2. Why did you choose to be part of a diverse, multiracial, multicultural church?

3. Have you taken advantage of the diversity by meeting and getting to know people of different races?

4. Does understanding the true purpose of the church and why oneness should be embraced convict you in any way? What will you do differently?

Challenge: Imagine what oneness would look like for you? Think this week about what are some next steps for you, for Crossroads Fellowship, for your workplace, and for our city.
Additional Reading and Viewing Suggestions:

Right Now Media

Available on Right Now Media: Oneness Embraced by Tony Evans A series of 6 sessions approx. 12 min. each. Excellent for group discussion.

Available on Right Now Media: Is Our Society Post-Racial? From Q-Talks David Bailey A 9-minute presentation addressing racism in the United States. He talks about how diversity within the Kingdom is a reason for cultural celebration, not separation.

Suggested Reading

Oneness Embraced: Through the Eyes of Tony Evans (2013) Black/white relations in the culture at large and in the church in particular continue to be a stain on America’s respectable reputation. Evans promotes biblical understanding of the kingdom foundation of oneness by detailing why we don't have it, what we need to do to get it, and what it will look like when we live it.

Separate no More by Norman Peart (2000) The great strides our society has made since the civil rights era still leaves a disturbing racial divide in our churches and among Christians. Though racial reconciliation has been viewed as a peripheral mater by the church, it should be at the heart of the church's message and mission.

Dream with me: Race, Love, and the Struggle we must Win by John Perkins (2017) Dream with Me is Perkins' look back at a life devoted to seeking justice for all God's people, as well as a look forward to what he sees as a potentially historic breakthrough for people of every race.

Americas Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America by Jim Wallis (2017) Wallis wrote because seeing that racism is much more than political, but rooted in sin, repentance, morality, and faith and is the key to a revival for racial reconciliation and justice. He hopes it will become a tool for new conversations within and between churches across racial lines.

Other books people might be interested in:

Waking up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race by Debbie Irving the author was an educator who lived her comfortable white upper middle-class life and yet was trying to reach out to students of color with no success. “Then, in 2009, one 'aha' moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan.”

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone (2011) Not an easy read as it covers an era that both white and black people would like to forget. It is not by forgetting but by forgiving that we are healed. Lynching’s in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s were an accepted means of white “justice.” Finding forgiveness and repentance is as important in racial reconciliation as it is in spiritual reconciliation to God through the cross of Jesus Christ.

Outstanding books, not for their Christian perspective but for the world culture changing scope:

Just Mercy by Brian Stevenson (2014) One of the most influential books I have read this year. Stevenson has been defending incarcerated people who have been sentenced unjustly for over 3 decades. Reading the stories of real people who you get to know enough about to care about them deeply changes the whole view of the prison system.

The Making of a Racist by Charles Dew (2016) The author tells his story of being raised and indoctrinated in white supremacy thinking and how he eventually rejected that upbringing. The second half of the book gives a history of the inhumanity of the Richmond slave trade.

Documentaries

13th. Directed by Ava DuVernay an in depth look at the prison system in the United States and how it reveals the nation's history of racial inequality. This is history that will bend your tree far enough to undo the one sided bent.