

BEYOND SUNDAY: May 23, 2021



Series Page: wearepcc.com/btb

Message: Where the Healing Begins

At PCC, we want any person from any racial or ethnic background to feel like they are among family. In order to do so, we must become more aware of God's heart for racial reconciliation, key historical events, and the harm caused to many. Each week, our "[Be The Bridge](#)" (BTB) series will help us journey toward greater understanding, empathy and, in time, action. This week, we focus on the key element of confession and its role in making us a true bridge builder.

#1

What new awareness are you coming to regarding the race-related terms used in Chapter 5 of BTB (white supremacy, colorism, brown-paper-bag test, mulatto, zero sum games, etc.)? Are there other race-related terms that you are becoming more aware of? How does this newfound awareness make you feel? Or what questions does it cause to arise?

#2

Meditate on [1 John 1:9](#) & [James 5:16](#). Why is confessing your sins to our all-knowing God just as important to one another? How does this represent the full vertical and horizontal gospel of the cross? How has confessing to God and others benefited you?

#3

Reflect on this statement from BTB p. 89

"The sin of racism—as well as my sin of colorism—disrupts God's order of justice and righteousness. It denies the image of God in our brothers and sisters. And though we must name our individual sin, we must also confess our corporate sin. Just as Ezra and Daniel felt the weight of guilt and shame and confessed it to the Father, seeking his healing, we should too."

How do you see racism and colorism disrupting God's order of justice, righteousness, and His image? What do you find challenging about the idea of confessing individual and corporate racial sins of the past and present?

BEYOND SUNDAY: May 23, 2021

#4

Read [Ezra 9:1-10:2](#) out loud. What stands out to you with regards to this moment of corporate confession? If confession isn't optional in our faith, why has the church found it difficult to confess its racist past in many cases? How could the church lead the culture and set the example in what confession as a step toward reconciliation can look like?

#5

Reflect on this statement from BTB p. 95

“In the context of racial reconciliation, confession requires owning our part in racism and racist structures, the ways we’ve benefited from systems of oppression. But it also requires each of us to admit our own private racist or colorist beliefs, beliefs we know aren’t right and that we may not want others to know about. ... It bears repeating: confession isn’t just for those in the majority culture who’ve benefited from or perpetrated discrimination; it’s for people of color too.”

Then ponder these questions to help lead you toward confession:

Corporate:

- What are the historical racial injustices within the U.S. that anger you?

Personal:

- Have you ever looked down on others because of their ethnicity, their race?
- Have you ever thought less of them because of the way they looked?
- Have you ever played zero-sum games as it relates to those of other ethnicities, believing their opportunities came at the cost of yours?
- Have you ever been afraid of someone just because of the color of his or her skin?

As a group or individually, declare the prayer below:

A Prayer of Confession (BTB p.100 at the end of Chapter 5)

God, I have been blind to the plight of my fellow image bearers. I have been deaf to their cries for justice and for mercy. I have been mute when there was no one to speak for them. Lord God, unbind my mouth. Place your healing over my eyes that I might see, and unblock my ears that I might hear. I lay my sins at your feet that you might cleanse me, heal me, and send me to do your holy work of reconciliation with my brothers and sisters.

Resources

1. Get a FREE *Be the Bridge* book! [Pick up at church or [request to be sent to your home](#)]
2. Get in a [Be the Bridge Group](#)
3. [Be the Bridge - Reading Schedule](#)