



WHAT CAN WE DO?

As individuals and communities longing to be faithful allies and advocates, we are invited into a sacred journey... one that moves us beyond statements and into prayerful reflection, courageous action, and deeper alignment with God's restoring heart. This path draws from the wellsprings of African American history, spirituality, and the liberating way of Jesus. It calls us to stand with the marginalized, to tell the truth about systemic injustice, and to allow Christ's love and justice to reshape us from the inside out.

1. **Make Space for Lament** – Recognize and honor the grief and exhaustion carried by the Black community. Lament is a sacred act that invites truth-telling and healing. As Cory Leak shares, *"We are living in a country that doesn't love us, and every day of our lives is emotionally taxing. We carry ancestral trauma in our bodies and the daily emotional tax of continually looking over our shoulder for anti-Black aggressions."*
2. **Explore Your Own Family History** – Understanding our own story helps us reckon with history. Consider taking a DNA test or researching your genealogy. As Jaya Saxena notes, *"Learning your history is forced reckoning, asking you to consider whose stories you carry with you and which ones you want to carry forward."*
3. **Support Black Churches and Nonprofits** – If you have the financial means, consider allocating resources from your budget as a tangible way to support and invest in Black-led ministries and organizations.
4. **Integrate Anti-Racism Education** – Teach courses and engage in discussions on dismantling racial and caste-based hierarchies in church settings, such as new members' classes or sermon series (e.g., Sermon on the Mount, Elephant in the Room, Table Talks, Courageous Conversations).
5. **Build Bridges Through Fellowship** – Cultivate meaningful relationships across racial and cultural lines by collaborating with other churches and youth groups. Share meals and create intentional spaces for discussing justice.

6. **Engage with Diverse Voices** – Read, listen to, and learn from non-white authors, speakers, theologians, poets, artists, and creatives who offer wisdom and insight into faith and justice.
7. **Have Courageous Conversations in Family Spaces** – When confronted with racist remarks from relatives, respond with truth and love. These conversations, though difficult, can be transformative.
8. **Stand in Solidarity** – If called and able, show up physically in spaces of protest, bearing witness to injustice and advocating for change alongside Black communities.
9. **Seek Mentorship Beyond Your Own Racial Identity** – Be intentional about learning from Black leaders, pastors, and mentors...not as a symbolic gesture but as a genuine step toward spiritual and communal growth.
10. **Remain Present in Challenging Spaces** – Instead of retreating to places of comfort, lean into communities that need sustained presence and engagement. Healing-centered practices help cultivate long-term transformation.
11. **Advocate for Accountability in Leadership** – Use your voice to call for transparency and justice in policing, education, healthcare, and housing policies. Sign petitions, write letters, and engage with local leaders to push for systemic change.
12. **Speak Publicly Against Racism** – Rather than reaching out privately to Black friends with concern, take a stand on your platforms. When faced with pushback, hold firm to truth and love.
13. **Embrace Discomfort as a Path to Growth** – Ask yourself, “What is the next brave and right thing to do?” Trust that transformation happens one courageous step at a time.
14. **Reevaluate Educational Choices** – Consider the impact of school systems on racial inequity. Reflect on what arises within you when confronted with the realities of systemic oppression in education.
15. **Acknowledge and Leverage Privilege for Good** – Recognize white or light-skinned privilege and use it to create access and opportunities for Black individuals and communities.
16. **Speak Truth to Power** – Be willing to challenge unjust systems, even when it means risking financial or social security. Trust in God’s provision.
17. **Commit Time and Presence to Advocacy** – Engage with local justice organizations, attend meetings, and be willing to invest your own time and body in the work of equity and reconciliation.
18. **Cultivate Meaningful, Lasting Relationships** – Move beyond one-time encounters and invest in ongoing friendships across racial lines. Transformation happens in the context of authentic community.

19. **Learn from Thought Leaders in Racial Healing** – Engage with voices like Robin DiAngelo and Resmaa Menakem. Listen to their conversation on racial repair:
<https://onbeing.org/programs/robin-diangelo-and-resmaa-menakem-towards-a-framework-for-repair/#audio>

Remember, this journey is not a checklist but a lifelong formation... a gradual becoming. As you reflect on these practices, consider who might join you in this work of love and repair. May we answer God's call with humility, courage, and a steadfast commitment to the justice and mercy revealed in Christ.

LIVING OUT JESUS' SERVICE IN COMMUNITY

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When individuals or communities seek to understand liberation in spiritual formation, we are stepping into the sacred work of drawing all humanity into deeper union with God. We invite you to see this journey through the lens of African American spirituality and the life and ethics of Jesus... where love, justice, and compassion (Matthew 5-7) form the core of discipleship. Reggie Williams, in Bonhoeffer's *Black Jesus*, reminds us that following Christ means standing with the marginalized and naming the injustices that wound our world. Walking this narrow but life-giving path forms us into a people shaped by God's presence and bound to one another in love.

Below are practical ways to live faithfully into this journey.

SOLIDARITY & ADVOCACY: Standing With the Marginalized

- **Walking with the Homeless:** Move beyond transactional kindness into relationship... listening, learning stories, and connecting people to resources.
- **Supporting Immigrant & Refugee Families:** Offer help with paperwork, language learning, or community support.
- **Economic Equity:** Promote diverse hiring, fair wages, supplier diversity, and financial literacy initiatives.
- **Racial & Economic Justice:** Attend city council meetings, support equitable policies, and challenge unjust systems.
- **Justice-Focused Education:** Advocate for inclusive school policies and support diverse storytellers, educators, and creators.
- **Faith & Civic Engagement:** Vote with justice in mind, write to representatives, and support community-led movements.

FAITH IN ACTION: Living the Mission of Jesus

- **Praying for Justice & Mercy:** Weave Micah 6:8 and Luke 4:18 into personal and communal prayer.
- **Spiritual Freedom Conversations:** Explore Jesus' mission of liberation as it relates to emotional, physical, and societal freedom.
- **Liberation through Service:** Partner with justice-centered ministries, support returning citizens, and address food insecurity.
- **Hosting Justice Conversations:** Gather neighbors or church members to explore tangible expressions of mercy and justice.

A FRAMEWORK FOR ETHICAL REFLECTION

INCARNATIONAL HUMILITY: The Ethics of Presence

Jesus enters the world in humility... among the poor, outside systems of power, and deeply attuned to those who suffer. His presence teaches us to see the dignity of every person and resist forces that dehumanize.

Ethical Call:

1. Honor the dignity of the overlooked.
2. Resist dehumanizing systems.
3. Embody God's presence where suffering persists.

Scriptural Anchors: John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-8, Micah 6:8

PROCLAIMING GOOD NEWS: The Ethics of Justice & Liberation

Jesus' message is not neutral... it restores, heals, and frees. We are called into that same work: to advocate, to protect, and to speak truth that liberates.

Ethical Call:

1. Advocate for the oppressed.
2. Prioritize the poor and disenfranchised.
3. Speak truth that exposes injustice.

Scriptural Anchors: Isaiah 58:6-10, Matthew 25:31-46, Amos 5:24

LOVE AS THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT: The Ethics of Relationship

Love is the heartbeat of Jesus' message... active, healing, and embodied. This love moves us toward justice through relationship, reconciliation, and radical hospitality.

Ethical Call:

1. Pursue love as the highest form of justice.
2. Cultivate reconciliation and hospitality.
3. Love in action, not sentiment.

Scriptural Anchors: Deuteronomy 6:4-12, Matthew 22:34-40, 1 John 3:16-18

THE KINGDOM WAY: The Ethics of Transformation

Following Jesus means allowing His presence to reshape us... our desires, decisions, and practices. Transformation is ongoing, and it leads us away from systems of harm into the humility, sacrifice, and love of the Kingdom.

Ethical Call:

1. Commit to ongoing transformation.
2. Resist systems of injustice.
3. Engage practices that form a just and merciful heart.

Scriptural Anchors: Galatians 2:20, Colossians 3:12-14, Romans 12:1-2

LOVING OURSELVES: The Ethics of Healing & Reflection

Loving others well begins with recognizing our need for God's healing. Through honest reflection, confession, and receiving grace, we learn to extend compassion to ourselves and to others. Repentance becomes not shame-filled but a return to God's healing love.

Ethical Call:

- Receive God's mercy with honesty and humility.
- Practice self-compassion and grace.
- Take responsibility for harm and walk in restorative repentance.

Scriptural Anchors: Psalm 139:23-24, 1 John 1:9, Matthew 7:3-5

ENDURANCE IN SUFFERING: The Ethics of Faithfulness

Following Jesus includes seasons of hardship. Christ strengthens us as we stand with the oppressed, endure trials, and remain faithful to the Kingdom's way of justice and mercy.

Ethical Call:

1. Stand firm in suffering.
2. Offer solidarity to the persecuted.
3. Draw strength from Christ rather than false sense of security of human systems.

Scriptural Anchors: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Hebrews 12:1-3, James 1:2-4

THE SHEPHERD'S CALL: The Ethics of Beloved Community

Jesus leads us into beloved community... a unity grounded in Christ, not sameness. We are called to support one another, bear each other's burdens, and embody justice, mercy, and reconciliation together.

Ethical Call:

1. Embrace unity in Christ and honor the dignity of every member.
2. Walk together in love and mutual support.
3. Seek reconciliation and cultivate peace within community.

Scriptural Anchors: John 17:20-23, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, Galatians 6:2

Note: To explore this topic further, Redeemer City to City offers helpful resources and courses for continued study and reflection ([Faith and Work Immersion: An Intermediate Faith & Work Course](#)).