

Becoming Antiracist: Part 3

Part 1: Who are we, and how do we fit in?

Part 2: How have our personal and collective histories have shaped the situation we are now in?

→ Part 3: How should we, as Christians, respond to this situation?

Part 4: Making our personal and group plan for becoming Anti-Racist

Last week we looked at how our personal histories and our national history have impacted racism.

We are in a somewhat unique situation here in New Mexico, with only 2.7% of our population being Black, but there is still a lot of work to do among the other various groups represented in our state: Spanish, Indigenous peoples, Latin American immigrants, and Anglos. We are also dealing with a huge political divide that wracks our country.

From the movies you watched this week, what did you learn about racism?

About history?

Would you recommend it to the class?

The ballot counting is over and the recounts and lawsuits are resolved. The Democrats won the White House. However, the Senate, and the House of Representatives are almost evenly split.

Our Supreme Court now has a 6 to 3 conservative super majority. This is significant. The damage done over the past four years will take a long time to heal.



AND ..we are still in the grips of a severe pandemic with more than half a million deaths nationwide.

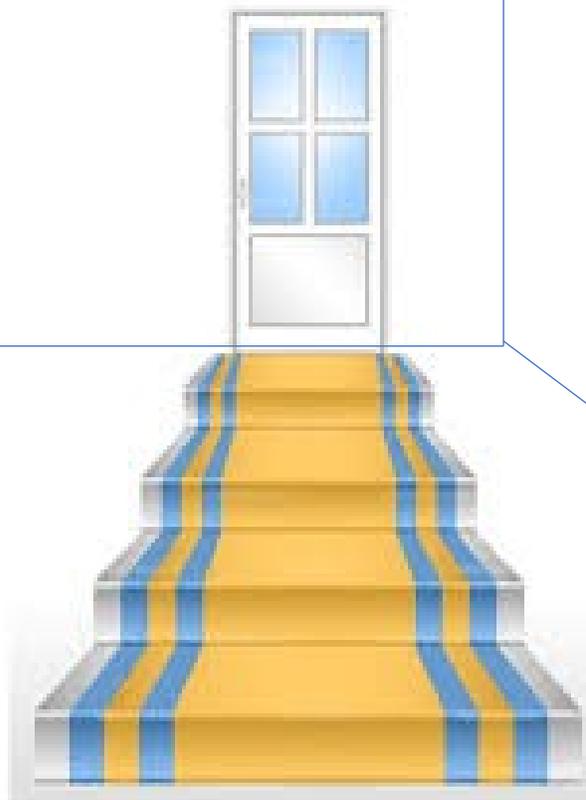
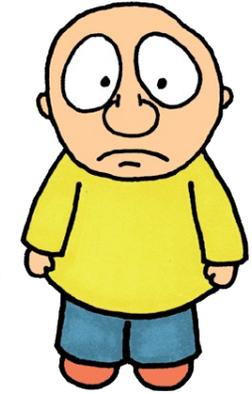
In this Anti-racism class, we have different backgrounds and different life experiences, but many more similarities than differences.

We are in a box that we share with others who happen to have similar backgrounds and ideas.



We need to open the door to our box and let more people in!

But how?



In this week's class we are going to focus on how to begin to heal, how to bind our society's wounds, and how we can move forward to make this a kinder, gentler, more accepting world.

In the beatitudes (Matt 5:9), Jesus tells us.... "blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God."

In Luke 6:27, Jesus tells us... "...love your enemies, do good to those who hate you..."

Jesus never says we have to agree with one another – only LOVE one another!

Today we are going to look at Microaggressions:

Microaggressions are "brief, everyday exchanges that send denigrating messages to certain individuals because of their group membership." The persons making the comments may be otherwise well-intentioned and unaware of the potential impact of their words.

Maybe we have been guilty of these microaggressions, or have seen them and felt their impact on yourself or others. We have a short video that was supplied by Lane. We will then go into our breakout rooms to share microaggressions we know about or have experienced, and how to deal with them. In 7 minutes we will come back to the big group to discuss what we discovered.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GTvU7uUgjUI>

Discuss what you learned in breakout rooms

Summary:

What microaggressions have you noticed?

How can we be part of the solution – to be a peacemaker; to love those who disagree with us?

How can we stop microaggressions?

How can we reach out to others in a larger group and make the “box” bigger, or break down the walls?

Homework:

This week think about what you have learned so far about becoming anti-racist. Share with the group next week one way in which you can become more actively anti-racist. What is ONE thing you can do?

You have heard that there is strength in numbers. Well, we have 10-12 people here who may be willing and able to be part of a group that could support one another in our efforts to become more actively anti-racist. Next week let's delve into ways we can support one-another and keep going along the path to active Anti-Racism.

Close in prayer



