

# NCS MESSAGE GUIDE

**TOPIC:** You CANNOT be a Christian and allow Racism

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 2:11-14

**CENTRAL TRUTH:** To be a disciple of Jesus means you are always on the side of those who are oppressed and treated unequally.

## **PRAYER:**

Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved you with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us.

We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget.

And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen..

## **Scripture**

*11 But when Peter came to Antioch, I had to oppose him to his face, for what he did was very wrong. 12 When he first arrived, he ate with the Gentile believers, who were not circumcised. But afterward, when some friends of James came, Peter wouldn't eat with the Gentiles anymore. He was afraid of criticism from these people who insisted on the necessity of circumcision.*

*13 As a result, other Jewish believers followed Peter's hypocrisy, and even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. 14 When I saw that they were not following the truth of the gospel message, I said to Peter in front of all the others, "Since you, a Jew by birth, have discarded the Jewish laws and are living like a Gentile, why are you now trying to make these Gentiles follow the Jewish traditions?"*

## **Message Summary**

With the state of our culture and conversation surrounding the unequal treatment of black people in America it is a good reminder that as Christians other people's problems become our problems as we choose to stand up for those who are treated unequally. In today's story we

read Paul calling out Peter who did not want to be seen eating with the Gentiles (people of different ethnicity). This is a racist action Peter does and Paul calls him out on it knowing this is not how a disciple of Jesus acts. According to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:3-12 to be a disciple of Jesus means to be on the side of those who are oppressed and treated unequally. You cannot call yourself a disciple of Jesus or a Christian if you are standing against those who are crying out for justice and fair treatment against racist actions and a racist system.

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### **Questions to Consider**

1. Was there a time you felt like you should stand up for someone who was treated poorly? What'd you do?
  2. Are there any black and brown leaders you know and look up to in history and those who are currently alive? If not, try researching some this week to answer the question.
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### **Daily Spiritual Practice**

#### *Monday*

- Listen to the song "When it comes to you" by RNW

#### *Tuesday*

- Read Psalm 7 and reflect for 3 minutes on the scripture by empathizing with the black community.

#### *Wednesday*

- Take time today to confess to God times you may have treated someone different because of how they act or look.

#### *Thursday*

- Talk with your family or small group leader about what racism is and how you can be a part in stopping it.

#### *Friday*

- Listen to the song "Love Thy Neighbor" by Beleaf.