

A Prayer Against Racism

Based on Ephesians 3:14-19; 2 Corinthians 5:14-20; Acts 10:34-36; Matthew 5:14-16; Revelation 7:9; Matthew 16:18)

Dear Father from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,

Strengthen us with power through your Spirit in our inner being, so that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith. Root us and establish us in love, so that we may have power, together with the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that we may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God. Break the hatred and division of racism in our world and in our souls.

Lead us to regard no one according to the flesh, but being in Christ, by your grace, thank you for making us new creations—the old is gone, the new has come. Through Jesus Christ you have given us the ministry of reconciliation. You have entrusted us with this message: that in Christ, you reconciled the world to yourself, not counting our sins against us. Now we are your ambassadors. Shape us to be shining lights of your love and righteousness giving light to the world so that all may see your goodness and give glory to you. Push back the toxic temptations of prejudice and discrimination.

As you convinced the Apostle Peter that you, O God, show no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears you and does what is right is acceptable to you, break the ungodly grip of racism in our hearts, in our homes, in our churches and in our communities. You are Lord of all. You sent your Son to die for all. May we love as you have first loved us.

Shape your church on earth, O Lord, to reflect the Church revealed in your Word: “A great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.” Forgive us for our sinful failures and our biased boundaries. Sanctify us in your Truth. Send us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and to break down the limiting and deceiving gates of hell with the advance of your unconditional love and salvation. As you opened your arms wide to us through your death and resurrection, may we open our arms wide to embrace all of your beloved people.

In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.