

Insights, Questions, Ideas to Consider
from participants of the
Grace and Race: Doing Our Own Work Workshop

May 18, 2019

Be aware of your own white supremacy.

There is a 12-step process for Recovery from White Conditioning. DO IT.

We need to speak out against racism everywhere. We do not need to be perfect before we try. Practice. Practice. Practice.

How deep, long-lasting and complicated are the on-going effects of centuries of slavery.

Nudged. Deepened. Challenged. Uncertain. Comforted. Practice. Because I'm not alone.

As a child of God my job is to demonstrate God's love by loving ALL children of God.

How can Grace people have authentic conversations with people of color to learn what action(s) would be useful/productive?

This is a long, often difficult process. Far from perfection. Two steps forward, one step back. Will be messy. We must avoid shutting down.

Reframing negative stereotypes for myself and others.

Need to view harmful stereotypes differently — to understand cause, explanation, etc. I.e. Jews as financiers and owning things — from a historical era when they couldn't own land or businesses.

Let go of guilt and hopelessness and move toward action, no matter how small.

Realize you are not "one of the good ones" — it's lifelong work.

When we try to help people of color, are we just trying to make them white?

Replace "white guilt" with "white responsibility" — we can and must take action.

Grace has assets, capacity, talent, resources and opportunity to help dismantle white privilege.

How can we unpack why Grace continues to be such a predominantly white congregation?

Whiteness is not neutral.

To engage in this conversation, we need to let go of perfectionism. We will make mistakes, but it is worth it. MLK said we won't remember the words of our enemies, but rather the silence of our friends.

Kinship of all humanity. Love overcomes fear. Notice the lens of whiteness that is my norm. Be curious. Listen. Learn. Love.

Overcoming racism and dismantling white supremacy begins with my "inner work".

We need "voice lessons" to help each other speak up against racism—and speak for racial equity.

We must learn to HEAR the racist narratives buzzing around in everyday discourse. We must learn to contextualize and REJECT them.

We have to keep trying (even when it seems hopeless).

I am committed to not being silent about issues of race — and we as a Grace congregation are committed to acting and speaking as a group and as individuals.

White people are responsible for educating/having conversations with other white people about white conditioning/supremacy.

“Sit with the things that insult your soul and take action.” – Cristina Combs

“What would it mean to stand on the first page of the end of despair?”

Stay active and don't retreat back into our whiteness, or our gains will be lost.

Continue to recognize white conditioning in my perception of the world.

We must open our hearts to all people, they are our brothers and sisters.

I want to be on the first page of that book that ends despair.

We all come from our own origins, mostly not intentional racism. Awareness is the key.

Silence is not healthy or helpful. Speak up!

Telling (ourselves) the same stories over and over changes nothing, continues harm.

“Welcoming all people” may require us to be open to change.

How could Grace partner with a more diverse congregation — for fellowship, pulpit exchange, conversation?

Silence is not an option.

Don't be afraid in the uncomfortable moments. That is when you can do the real work on yourself.

White “privilege” is pervasive in so many ways I/we are not even conscious of. Awareness must be increased in order to begin to address the whole racial equity issue.