



Mennonite Church USA has four end statements. One is:

Anti-racism

We will honor the dignity and value of all Racial/Ethnic people in Mennonite Church USA, ensuring just and equitable access to church resources, positions and information as manifestations of the one new humanity in Christ. (Acts 10; Galatians 3:25-29; Ephesians 2:15; Article 9, *Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective*)

Continue learning by talking with your youth group about:

- Benefits white people receive from race privilege
- Costs to white people who have race privilege
- Benefits white people would receive as members of racially equitable communities
- Costs to white people who are members of racially equitable communities

Bibliography

Anti-racist Alliance

www.antiracistalliance.com/home.html

Classroom Guidebook For Shades Of Youth

www.antiracism.com/Shades_Of_Youth_First_Edition.pdf

The Great White Elephant by Robin Parker and Pamela Smith Chambers www.beyonddiversity.org



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Racism HARMs the body of Christ

You are part of the body of Christ. No matter your skin color, you are harmed by racism. If you are white, racism gives you advantages, called *white privilege*.



White privilege

It's not fair and white people didn't ask for it—but solely because of the color of our skin, whites have advantages in our society. These privileges are often hidden from whites. When ugly racism rears its head, we catch a glimpse of what we haven't experienced. Awareness is very uncomfortable and a spiritual issue. Talk about it; pray about it.

Race

Race is not a biological term: while people may have different skin tones, hair textures and other features, the differences are fluid and don't constitute different races. More importantly, we are all created in God's image.

However, society sees color and treats people quite differently based on their skin tone. White people have privileges that people with darker skin don't have. That means white Christians who claim they don't see color are incorrect. What they don't see are the advantages they are receiving because of a quirk of birth. People with white skin rarely worry about racism. People with darker skin always do. Racism harms all of us. Racism harms the church. This is not of God.

Effects of white privilege

- White people are mostly unaware of their privilege and the oppression other people suffer.
- White people think their privileges are simply the way life is for everyone.
- White people receive subtle messages from society that they are superior.
- White people want to see themselves as good but feel guilty about their privileges.
- White people rarely experience the variety of humanity that God created.

Eight ways white youth can work against racism

1. Pray to God that your eyes may be opened and that you will have experiences to learn from.
2. Admit white privilege exists and that you benefit from it.
3. Learn to identify white privilege and racism.
4. Talk about race to end the silence. Listen carefully and without judgment to people of different races as they describe how racism and white privilege affect them.
5. Notice color. God made us gloriously different!
6. At school, be sure you learn the history and sociology of all peoples.
7. Stop racist jokes. Stop any talking that is racist, but also learn to cool down conflicts and violence that might occur.
8. Live differently. Be with people from groups other than your own. Take risks, knowing God is beside you.

One way white people become anti-racist is to become aware of the privileges U.S. society gives them.

Definitions

White privilege	The accumulation of unearned benefits that white people receive from society, even though they are usually unaware.
Prejudice	An unfavorable attitude, often formed without knowledge, thought or reason.
Discrimination	Behavior based on prejudice.
Racial/Ethnic	The term chosen by Mennonites who are not white to describe themselves.
Racism	The systemic combination of power and prejudice.
White allies	People who choose to take apart the racist system from which whites benefit, with leadership from Racial/Ethnic sisters and brothers.

