

and expelled at three times the rate of white students.⁴ The U.S. incarcerates more black men today than there were enslaved people at the height of slavery's practice.⁵ The median wealth of white households is 20 times that of black households, and 18 times that of Latino households.⁶

Racial difference has long been a powerful tool to build wealth and power for white people, and it has perpetuated a deep and harmful lie which is counter to the gospel: that some people bear the image of God more completely than do others. Those who follow Jesus are also called to see, name, and work to change the ways that dehumanization of people of color has made its way into our individual attitudes and thoughts, and made its way into our church communities and our friend groups. That is what the early church did.

Responding to the Word and our Context

- 1) The "Greek