

Discussion Questions for *More Than Equals*

1. What is your first memory of when race was an issue?
2. What is your most vivid negative experience regarding race?
3. What is your most vivid positive personal experience regarding race?
4. What is one thing in your world that is different from your parent's world in terms of race?
5. The authors contend that integration was once the dominant national ideal for race relations, but now a higher ideal of reconciliation is needed. How do the two ideals differ?
6. Much of chapter two focuses on the influence of Spencer's parents. How would you describe your parents' racial attitudes and choices? How did those influence you? What do you think of when you think *neighbor*? How does Jesus' definition compare to yours?
7. Is loving our racially different neighbor optional or a nonnegotiable of the gospel?
8. Spencer's experience of frequently being the only African American in settings during high school and college and otherwise is not uncommon. Have you ever been the ethnic minority in a situation or setting? What did you learn from your experience?
9. "It is easy to remain angry with a faceless white race. It is much harder to direct that anger at a particular white brother or sister who has a name and a face" (chap. 7). What are the implications of this principle as a hopeful step toward racial reconciliation?
10. Chapter eight, in fact the entire book, is not so much concerned with overt racism. Its focus is unconscious attitudes, systems, preferences, practices—the social and institutional blinders—which do not intentionally exclude, harm and discriminate but nevertheless have the same result. Do an honest examination of your life and circles of influence for how silence may be giving consent to social or institutional blinders. What do you "see"?
11. What is the difference between appropriate ethnic pride and ethnocentrism? When is making cultural value judgments wrong or harmful? When is it right and useful? (You may want to distinguish between issues of cultural preference and issues of truth.)
12. Which of the following four terms best characterizes your life's path thus far in terms of racial reconciliation: racially integrated, isolated, separated, or reconciled?

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13. Chris writes, “The gulf between black and white can be crossed only on a bridge built by the hands of God. . . .Without God at the center, there is no basis for reconciliation” (chap. 10). This is a bold statement. What does it mean to put God at the center of reconciliation, and why do you think Chris and Spencer believe this so deeply?

14. What are some resources and distinctives of Christian faith that should offer Christians an advantage in taking leadership in racial healing?

15. How might a church or other group committed to being multiethnic look and act compared to one that is homogeneous?

16. Why do you think interracial dating and marriage has been so vehemently opposed even by many Christians? Why has so much energy been invested in opposing it by racists throughout history?

17. What kingdom choices could you or your group make for the sake of reconciliation that would provide a clear and compelling contrast to “normal” race relations in your setting?

18. According to Philip Yancey, “Grace is unfair, which is one of the hardest things about it.” What are some specific “unfair” steps that Christians of different ethnicities can take on behalf of another ethnicity?

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