

Session 4—Becoming Racially Attractive

The Skin You Live In

Dr. David Ireland

NOTES:

- Kairos moment hearing God’s voice in grocery store: **“David, why can’t it be like this in My House?”**

- “11 A.M. on Sunday morning is the most racist hour in America.”—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Admit being a little awkward
- Don’t be hard on yourself; start in the heart and just be honest.
- Pray and ask God for people to strike up conversations and relationships with

- **Accept Others**

- Follow Jesus’ model of becoming racially attractive—don’t attach assumptions or cultural traits of a whole race to an individual
- Nobody wants to stand out; treat them like everybody else
- Don’t make your cultural differences an issue—just makes them uncomfortable

- **Apply Grace**

- Be comfortable in your own skin and who God says you are
- EX: **Acts 11:19-30**. Barnabas grew up in the cross-cultural city on Cyprus, so church leaders sent him (a cross-cultural man) to the diverse city of Antioch.
- There “he saw evidence of the grace of God” (v. 28)

- **Be Honest and Teachable**

- Ask to be coached
- Read a book on the topic, and read books by diverse authors
- Tackle new questions and “messy” issues



REFLECT and DISCUSS:

Take some time for individual reflection. Then discuss these questions with others.

1. Why do you think American churches often don't look like the local grocery store? How does that strike your heart and vision?

2. Read again **Acts 11:19-30** about Barnabas being sent to Antioch. Jot down anything you notice about cross-cultural relationships from this story. What evidence of grace do you think he noticed?

3. What made you feel safe in a previous vulnerable conversation on race? What would you need FIRST in a vulnerable conversation today?

4. If you adopted a child of another race, how would you address the issues of culture, cultural differences, and exposure to his/her culture?

5. Which (if any) non-Caucasian theologians, speakers, or writers have shaped your ministry?

6. Consider your current (or desired) relationships with people different from you. How do you honestly think you're doing on these principles? What might be one next step for you in each area?
 - a. Acceptance and inclusion?

 - b. Applying grace?

 - c. Being honest and being coached?

