

10 Things Every Racial Bridge-Builder Should Know

1. Become a student, and educate yourself on the issues.

- Read from various authors on the issues of race and reconciliation.
- Learn from others who don't look like you.
- Don't expect others to do the work for you.
- Understand racism from a systemic structure. Ask questions if you don't understand the systems.

2. Pray for opportunities.

- Don't expect opportunities to only come to you.
- Step out of your comfort zone to find opportunities. Be brave.
- Step out of your comfort zone to find opportunities. Be brave. Look for opportunities in your day-to-day life.
- Think outside the box.

3. Research those you can learn from, and follow them on social media.

- Diversify whom you follow on your social media platforms.

4. Surround yourself with diversity.

- Visit churches, gym classes, restaurants, playgrounds, and grocery stores.
- Try out new types of media like magazines, TV shows and movies.
- Add more diverse events to your calendar such as concerts, plays, community and civic events.
- Diversify your medical and health providers.
- Explore new service providers such as nail or hair salons and car washes.

5. Listen.

- One of the most difficult things for many people is to listen to others who don't think like themselves.
- Don't get caught up in pride and being right, practice humility
- Don't let political views drive you.
- Practice good listening skills - listen without speaking at times, ask questions for what you don't understand

10 Things Every Racial Bridge-Builder Should Know

6. Learn from minorities.

- Sadly, not many are willing to learn from minorities. Our experiences are all different, but all valid in the conversation.
- Remember minorities are the experts in their experiences and history.
- Try to see the world from a dissimilar perspective.

7. Notice and take responsibility for negative stereotypes you hold.

- Pay attention to how media perpetuates stereotypes.
- Be honest with yourself pray against the stereotypes, confess and repent of your own sins.

8. Acknowledge truth.

- We must own our history as a country despite how horrific or how shameful it may be. We must lament it, confess it, and repent of it so healing may begin.
- Stop defending injustice.
- Just because you've never experienced racism personally doesn't mean that someone else hasn't.
- Acknowledge any privileges you may have, and use them for good. Give your power to lift others up.

9. Stand as an ally for the marginalized.

- Hold those around you accountable for what they say.
- Bridge building needs collective and active participation. The problem will not solve itself.

10. Model reconciliation in your own relationships.

- These issues are not for government to solve. The government can play a role, but the Church must embrace the process toward reconciliation.
- We can't take others where we are not willing to go ourselves. Lead by example.



COPYRIGHT
2016

BETHEBRIDGE.COM

