

## Week 1: Foundations

I. The importance of Good Questions, starting with: Why are we doing this series?

## A. Perplexing stories that ask for answers

1. John Earnest, pious Presbyterian and synagogue shooter
2. Charmaine Pruitt, formerly of Gateway Church
3. Amanda Holm, sophomore at Wheaton College

→ What good question(s) do each of these stories raise?

## B. Familiar Scriptures that urge us to take this journey

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, / but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

Proverbs 4:5-7

*Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget my words or turn away from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.*

1. We are pursuing wisdom and understanding as a way of loving God and our neighbor.

Romans 12:1-2

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

→ What has formed us in how we think about race, or in how we think about ourselves and people of other races?

2. We are pursuing right understanding so that we can pursue right action/response.

II. Why us? (The teachers)

## A. What good question does the slate of teachers raise?

## B. The conversation is worth the risk of saying things wrong.

III. How do we have this conversation?

- A. In a uniquely Christian manner.
- B. Quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger or take offense (but with one caveat).
- C. With a hermeneutics of love.
- D. Four agreements
  - 1. Stay engaged
  - 2. Experience discomfort
  - 3. Speak your truth (*Note: ≠ moral relativity*)
  - 4. Expect and accept non-closure
- E. Two conditions
  - 1. Stay personal, local, and immediate
  - 2. Isolate race

IV. Why is it so hard to have this conversation?

→ 1) Feel it. 2) I am beloved, and so are they. 3) I can survive this. 4) Is it worth experiencing this for the sake of the kingdom?

V. Where is our hope?

2 Cor 4:7-12

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.*

Next week: Biblical foundations, part I.

In preparation, consider this question: **Is God “color-blind”?**

COR@9 Website: <https://redeemernorthshore.org/experience-redeemer/cor9/currently-in-cor9/>

## RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY:

- *Divided by Faith* (Emerson & Smith)
- *Beyond Colorblind: Redeeming Our Ethnic Journey* (Sarah Shin)
- *Race: The Power of an Illusion* (documentary and associated website, <https://www.racepowerofanillusion.org/>);
- *The 13th* (documentary on Netflix)