

BATTLING DISCRIMINATION

(Galatians 3:26-28)

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is ^[a]neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

1. REMEMBERING When, where and how have you experienced the ugliness of discrimination?

2. REFLECTING What factors—in people, society, or the situation—made it worse?

3. DISCOVERING Read Acts 10:1-48 and Acts 11:1-20 and answer the questions below, remembering that these passages form the context of Galatians 3:26-28.
 - What do you imagine were some of the issues—religious, social, relational, and organizational—that the church dealt with because of this anti-Gentile prejudice from Jews who became believers? (There are *many* answers to this question, so take your time.)

 - Read Galatians 2:11-21 and describe the specific situation that led to Paul's bold confrontation of Peter. What were the factors—in the people, the church, or the historical context—that made it worse?

4. CONNECTING Ted mentioned how the 19th century churches struggled with the issue of slavery (racial discrimination) and 20th and 21st century churches have struggled with gender discrimination. What kinds of discrimination do you think present the greatest challenges to our church—and churches in our geographical area—now and in the near future?

5. RESPONDING What could we as a church and/or you as an individual, begin doing right now to avoid the ugliness of discrimination and promote the beauty of equality?

Intolerance and discrimination...are a refuge for weakness and ignorance. Acceptance and understanding can be expected only from the strong.

(Leo Buscaglia, *Papa My Father*)