



We believe America is at a critical impasse in our history, yet we have faith in the power of our Lord Almighty to empower us here in Chattanooga to be an example to our nation on how the church, working with government, business and education can break down the dividing walls which have stifled us too long.

Kingdom Partners has been a shining example of how we can engage a multi-cultural, generational, racial, denominational multitude to make a difference that will affect our children, grandchildren and for generations to come.

Ephesians 4:3 New International Version (NIV)

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Kingdom Partners (KP) was established because we concluded that opening more churches is not the answer to transform the city. The answer is to strengthen individual churches and create a unifying platform for churches to work together.

**Kingdom Partners seeks to be a catalyst to help transform lives and communities in Chattanooga by announcing, demonstrating God’s love for all people, focusing on three core areas:**

- ◇ **One Kingdom, One City, (Connecting communities of resource with communities of need while reconciling people to Jesus Christ and to each other)**
- ◇ **Pastor and Lay Leadership Development**
- ◇ **Urban Church Revitalization**

The church is the only authentic cross-racial, cross-cultural, and cross-generational basis for oneness in existence. The church is, after all the body of Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Romans 12:5. Moreover, one of the greatest gifts of the church is the holy truth that we are neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but one in Christ. Galatians 3:28 It is the only institution on earth called to live under God's authority while enabled to do so through His Spirit.



Most Christians live in their comfort zone when it comes to racial disparity issues in the United States. This is the first rung of the Journey to Brotherhood/Sisterhood. As an individual and/or group moves from the comfort zone to the discomfort zone and then the education zone to the growth zone, they are on the journey towards brotherhood/sisterhood beyond racial differences. This guide will explain each section in detail.

## Comfort Zone

This is where we currently live. It is comfortable and does not challenge our current beliefs or practices.

### Typical Statements

- ◇ I am not a racist, don't tell racist jokes, nor find racist "jokes" funny.
- ◇ All people regardless of color are sons and daughters of the Most High.
- ◇ Pray my children and grandchildren will see the day when color does not matter.
- ◇ I judge people according to their character and actions, not how they look.
- ◇ All people must learn the culture of our nation.

### Typical Activities

- ◇ Active in Church with friends; Small Group engagement.
- ◇ Make charitable gifts to multiple causes.
- ◇ Pray and repent when you make mistakes.
- ◇ Our Church supports local and international missions.
- ◇ My church does community outreach.

### Faith Journey

My Lord and Savior is Jesus Christ - believe in the Trinity.

Attend church regularly - Church is a place I go for corporate worship; my faith should be visible 24 hours/day or it is done in vain.

My actions speak so loudly, I do not need to say anything.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment and 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

We are all created in the image of God - daughters and sons of the Most High, no one better than any other due to race, culture, age, or religion.

## Discomfort Zone

This is where we begin to question long held beliefs. We must be willing to be embarrassed or corrected.

### Typical statements

- ◇ I do not want to feel guilty
- ◇ Why are some people so angry? Lots of different schisms.
- ◇ What do the protests expect to accomplish; what is behind the violence and destruction?
- ◇ Does my silence support racism?
- ◇ I avoid asking questions because I may get embarrassed.
- ◇ ‘Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better’ - Maya Angelou

### Typical Activities

- ◇ All races should begin to understand their privilege.
- ◇ Read history to understand about racism/reconciliation against all people groups. First start with gospel centric engagement building authentic relationships
- ◇ Risk embarrassing yourself - be vulnerable.
- ◇ Expand your circle of friends
- ◇ Listen to stories of racism - not just a black and white issue.

### Faith Journey

Some preach love but do not demonstrate love and compassion.

Small Group Study with people who don't look like you.

Visiting each other churches or ministries events

Attending Fellowship Luncheons at churches and non-profits with those who don't look like you and listen, engage, and practice.

1 Corinthians 12:31

“But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way

## Education Zone

This is where we expose ourselves to new ideas, new understandings, and conversations with people with different life experiences than ours.

### Typical Statements

- ◇ Racism is a system and a major problem.
- ◇ I will educate myself about racism and do research on claims of systemic racism and revisionist history.
- ◇ I will listen and learn from those who think and look different from me.
- ◇ I never stop learning; my job is to learn something new every day.
- ◇ I will listen and learn from those who think and look different from me.

### Typical Activities

- ◇ Strive to understand the impact of poverty in all communities.
- ◇ Strive to end your personal isolation - get out of your comfort zone. Engage with people who you might not agree with.
- ◇ Support charities that work to end poverty, racism, and injustice.
- ◇ Start thinking in terms of we rather than me
- ◇ Learn what micro-aggression is and how it is used to support the cancel culture.

### Faith Journey

Study God's Word and other sacred texts.

Pray.

Re-read your baptismal covenants\*

Support pastors and leaders and members paired up to build long-term authentic relationships.

Support churches doing enrichment together to learn about each other's cultures.

"...Strive for Justice and Peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, Page 305, Baptismal Covenants

## Growth Zone

This is where we get new understandings, commitments to change our behavior and an expanded view of the life experiences of other. It should also result in living into our baptismal covenants.

### Typical Statements

- ◇ Lives depend on this conversation about America living up to its values and potential.
- ◇ My learning will never be finished.
- ◇ I will not vote for racists - will go beyond the headlines.
- ◇ I know that I have unknowingly benefitted from racism.
- ◇ I will speak out when I see racism in action.
- ◇ I do not let mistakes or embarrassment deter me from getting better.

### Typical Activities

- ◇ Challenge racist comments.
- ◇ Do not be silent.
- ◇ Support minority and women-owned businesses.
- ◇ Vote for people whose values are to unite rather than divide us!
- ◇ Love your neighbor.

### Faith Journey

Forgive easily and often.

Pray for reconciliation.

Commit to live an overtly Christian life every day in every aspect of your life - walk the talk.

Love your neighbor.

Do something for others - pay it forward!

Impacting our communities...

God is Glorified

Healing of a dying community through saved souls

Racial Reconciliation: Walls that separate people will come down

Ministries will attract young people: Community will view the churches differently

Church Growth

Engaging leaders of faith and good will: We move isolated individuals to collaborative engagement

Start working collectively: (1 Corinthians 12:20-21 (NASB)

But now there are many members, but one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

Joint Initiatives: Independent efforts to collective impact

Solving major problems: Understand real community needs/form deep relationships

From the pews to the neighborhoods: Urban Churches members will move

Encourage churches of the Chattanooga metro area to serve the most vulnerable populations

It is KP's hope that you enjoyed the reflections of self and learned to appreciate others point of view as you have gone through this exercise.

God Bless,

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## Resources

### Resources for your growth

- ◇ “Loving the Neighbor Who Doesn’t Look Like You”  
Leader’s guide for Multi-Racial Discussion Groups by American Bible Society
- ◇ *Recovering from Racism* by Dr. Larry Lloyd
- ◇ *Oneness Embraced, Reconciliation by The Kingdom, and How We Are Stronger Together* by Dr. Tony Evans
- ◇ *Kingdom Agenda*, Bible study, video-based 6 session by Dr. Tony Evans
- ◇ *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo
- ◇ *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi
- ◇ *America’s Original Sin* by Jim Wallis
- ◇ *The Kingdom Agenda* by Tony Evans
- ◇ *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by Dr. James Cone
- ◇ *White Rage* by Carol Anderson
- ◇ *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
- ◇
- ◇ **Videos**
- ◇ [Matt Chandler - A House Divided Cannot Stand](#)
- ◇ [Dr. Ralph West - One People](#)
- ◇ [Dr. Ralph West – MLK 50](#)
- ◇ [Dr. Tony Evans - Unity](#)
- ◇ [Dr. Eric Mason – Don’t Lose Heart](#)
- ◇ [Dr. Larry - Recovering from Racism](#)

### Movies to watch

- ◇ Just Mercy
- ◇ John Lewis
- ◇ Selma
- ◇ 13
- ◇ To Kill a Mockingbird