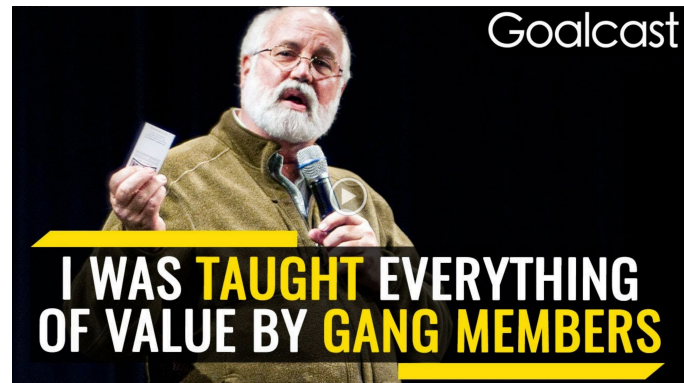


SPIRIT OF JUSTICE MINISTRY

Racial Equality

The issue of racial equality has been front and center due to the death of George Floyd and the protests that have followed. The video that documented his horrific death at the hands of an officer sworn "to protect and to serve" has laid bare the wounds

that many in the black community have tried to voice for many years. As Will Smith recently stated, "Racism is not getting worse, it's getting filmed." Now, with proof before us like never before seen, we are all called to truly face the reality that black Americans have been calling out for many years.



Social Justice means looking at an issue - like a case of police brutality - and attempting to identify and address the root causes of that issue. An incident like this doesn't happen in a vacuum, but as a result of a history of long-held beliefs, actions, laws and societal structures. One thing that all of us can do to further the cause of racial equality is to really examine our own beliefs, and more importantly, to listen to the voices of those affected by racial inequality...really listen...and to then work towards systemic change to address and eliminate racism in America.

We have attached a short video that we hope will begin the process of self-reflection and movement on a path towards justice. We will be adding additional videos on this subject from a variety of voices in the coming weeks. Our challenge to you is to watch and listen with an open heart.

The first video is from a commencement speech by Father Gregory Boyle, the founder of Homeboy Industries. His book, *Tattoos on the Heart - the Power of Boundless Compassion*, is a part of the Just Faith curriculum and describes his work with gang members in Los Angeles.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zK--XN4ozr8#action=share>

As Pope Francis said, following the killing of George Floyd, "We cannot close our eyes to any form of racism or exclusion, while pretending to defend the sacredness of every human life."

Say his name...Pray his name...George Floyd.