

## LOPPW Devotional on ELCA Social Statement *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*

To find the full text of the social statement, go [HERE](#)

A summary is available [HERE](#)

### Scripture

Read Ephesians 2:14. The Church confesses Christ, who has broken down the dividing wall. The Church looks toward the freedom of the reign of God, announced by and embodied in Jesus. But Christians live between the “now” of the reign of God and the “not yet” of its fulfillment. Read 1 John 1:8. Trusting the promise of freedom, we can face the fact that each of us is captive, each of us is in bondage to sin.

### Social Statement Tidbits:

- Racism — a mix of power, privilege and prejudice — is sin, a violation of God’s intention for humanity.
- The ELCA is in mission in a multicultural society and has made commitments to welcome cultural diversity.
- Those with access to opportunities, power and institutions remain separate from those without such access, whose cultures often have been ridiculed and reviled, or destroyed. The ELCA expects our leadership to name the sin of racism and lead us in our repentance.
- Participation in public life is essential to doing justice. The ELCA encourages public witness and insists on a public forum accessible to everyone.
- The ELCA received from its predecessor church bodies a solid foundation for advocacy. Advocacy will look for change and fair distribution of the social costs of correcting past wrongs. Advocacy will work for respect of cultures and oppose language-based discrimination.
- The ELCA will support legislation that guarantees to all individuals equally: civil rights; access to quality education, health care, and nutrition; opportunity for employment with fair compensation; opportunity for business ownership; access to legal, banking, and insurance services; the right to purchase housing in any place; and access to public transportation.
- The ELCA will promote international respect for human rights, and support the international movement to eliminate discrimination.

### Questions:

1. When have you been encouraged or inspired by movements that call attention to discrimination (eg. Civil rights movement, Black Lives Matter)? When have movements been troubling or difficult to receive? When reflecting consider movements of groups that didn’t necessarily have titles.
2. How could the government be most helpful in addressing racial/ethnic wrongs?
3. How could the church be most helpful in addressing racial/ethnic wrongs?
4. How could you be most helpful in addressing racial/ethnic wrongs?

**Prayer:** Gracious God, you are the God of All Creation. Help us to be good neighbors and joyful advocates for all people, of all backgrounds. You love all that you have made. Help us to do the same. Amen.

To see our full devotional, *Called into the World*, on all ELCA social statements click [HERE](#)