Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ)
at Arvada Covenant Church

Developing Interracial Relationships

(The following ideas are gathered from articles and books by Dr. Jemar Tisby.)

Awareness isn't enough; knowledge remains abstract until you care about the people facing the negative consequences of racism. It is hard to make friends with people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds due to this country's long history of racial segregation coupled with the tendency to associate with those most like ourselves.

Action steps to develop interracial relationships:

1. Start with people you know. Have you talked with the people you know of a different race or identity about their experiences and perspectives of race and justice? **These people cannot merely be projects or sources of information.** They are real people with whom to pursue a meaningful friendship. Still, it takes intentionality to diversify our social networks and we should start with those nearest to us.

2. Find new places to hang out. Go to different restaurants, grocery stores, and hangouts. Strategically organize your spatial habits; the mundane places where you enact your regular routines can become the richest sites to encounter those who are different from you.

3. Join a sport, club, or activity with people who are different. You might have to engineer these opportunities, but they can lead to organic friendships that cross traditional lines of social division.