



JUNE 6/7

**FEAR  
CAN'T  
WIN**

**JOHN FULLER**  
SENIOR PASTOR

## INTRODUCTION

This weekend, we launch a four-part series entitled *Note to Self*. It was originally intended to spur us on to represent Jesus well amidst the varying opinions of coronavirus. However, the first week of our series now focuses on our continuing debt to love others amidst the sobering reality of racism. Our nation took a sharp turn on May 25 with the murder of George Floyd. It is in this tragic season in our nation's history that Pastor John challenges us to be Jesus followers in a culture that is tipped against minorities in many ways.

## DISCUSSION

1. Spend time as a group sharing how the murder of George Floyd and the aftermath has affected you. What racial biases have been exposed in you? If you are doing this activity alone, journal your experience the last two weeks.
2. Pastor John highlighted **Romans 13:8** "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another..." If you've ever had a debt hanging over you, how did it feel? How does viewing love as a "continuing debt" impact your motivation to love all people?

3. **Read John 3:16** together out loud. "For God so loved *the world*" (italics ours). Does rereading this oft'-quoted and well-known verse remove any blinders you've had?

4. "Love does no harm" as Pastor John pointed out from **Romans 8:10**. Consider your reactions toward the current tragedy and chaos in our nation, your posts on social media or opinions you've voiced on coronavirus the past three months. Have you potentially caused harm?

## DO SOMETHING

1. The good debt to love is the baseline for being a No Matter follower of Jesus. The entry level starting place is to notice a person of color and listen to them. Enter with empathy and listen to their heart.
2. Expose yourself to podcasts, books and articles on the issue of racial injustice to increase your awareness and learning about the issues facing minority communities. The YouVersion Bible App has several plans under the search for "Racism."
3. Write your personal "Note.to.Self." What behaviors, responses, viewpoints or insensitive thinking do you want to change? What do you want to remind yourself of this summer?

## RESOURCES

1. Read [this article](#) by Scott Ridout, Converge Denomination President. (Converge is the denomination of Prairie Lakes Church.)
2. *United: Captured by God's Vision for Diversity* by Trillia J. Newbell, available on [Amazon](#) and [christianbook.com](#)
3. For Kids: *God's Very Good Idea (Tales that Tell the Truth)* by Tricia Newbell and Catalina Echeverri teaches young children how to enjoy being delightfully different yet all part of God's family. Available on [Amazon](#) and [christianbook.com](#)