

the third option.

SERMON NOTES:

If my people, which are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

— **2 Chronicles 7:14**

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” So he said, “No, but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshipped, and said to him, “what does my Lord say to His servant?” Then the commander of the Lord’s army said to Joshua, “Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy.” And Joshua did so.

— **Joshua 5:13-15**

In-group/out-group:

The way we sort people into groups that are either “like me” or “not like me,” creating “us” vs. “them”

In-group bias:

The tendency to give preferential treatment to people considered “like me”

In-group bias:

1. I am more comfortable with those ‘like me.’

In-group bias:

2. I am more inclined to spend time socially with those ‘like me.’

In-group bias:

3. I am more patient with those 'like me.'

In-group bias:

4. I give the benefit of the doubt quicker to those 'like me.'

In-group bias:

5. I express more grace when mistakes are made by those 'like me.'

In-group bias:

6. It is easier to communicate with those 'like me.'

In-group bias:

7. I assume that I will get along easier with those 'like me.'

In-group bias:

8. I am more willing to go out of my way to help those 'like me.'

In-group bias:

9. I possess more positive assumptions about those 'like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

1. I am less comfortable with those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

2. I am less inclined to spend time socially with those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

3. I am less patient with those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

4. I give the benefit of the doubt less to those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

5. I express less grace when mistakes are made by those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

6. It is more difficult to communicate with those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

7. I don't assume I will get along with those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

8. I am less willing to go out of my way to help those 'not like me.'

Out-group discrimination:

9. I possess less positive assumptions about those 'not like me.'

1. Acknowledge your blind spots.
2. Rename those people as your "brother" / "sister."
3. Give "in-group" love to your "out-group."
4. Acknowledge your "brother's" / "sister's" color.
5. View every "conversation" as a race "consultation."

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. How can we redirect our anger towards the appropriate action needed?
2. How can you love others better this week?
3. In what areas of your life can you identify that you've been carrying an "us" versus "them" culture?

Hope City

4. Do you find more “in-group” or “out-group” discriminations in your life?
5. What blind spots in your heart do you need to acknowledge?
6. How can you have a “neighbor” mentality rather than a “us-them” mentality?