

## Chapter 10—White Fragility And The Rules Of Engagement

### Summary Points

#### Rules of engagement

- o Cardinal Rule: Do not give feedback on racism under any circumstances.
- o Proper Tone is crucial. If any emotion is displayed, the feedback is invalid and can be dismissed.
- o There must be trust between us
- o Our relationship must be issue-free
- o Feedback must be given immediately
- o You must give feedback privately
- o You must be indirect as possible
- o As a white person, I must feel completely safe during any discussion of race.
- o Highlighting my racial privilege invalidates the form of oppression that *I* experience.
- o You must acknowledge my intentions and agree that my intentions cancel out the impact of my behavior.
- o To suggest that my behavior had a racist impact is to have misunderstood me.

The underlying assumptions that make these guidelines work is that they can be universally applied. They are thought to be universal because of the system that they come forth from.

## Reflection Questions

Cardinal Rule: Do not give feedback on racism under any circumstances.

1. Why would this be the cardinal rule? What is at stake?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How have you seen (if you haven't seen it, how could you imagine) fragility play out when the church receives racial feedback\*?
  - a. How should they respond?

\*If it will be more helpful to have a case study:

A person of color visits your church for a month, and then doesn't return. When asked why they state, 'I wasn't welcomed/did not feel like I belonged.' When you ask to explain they state 'When I went to service there was an advertisement for VBS--the theme was 'Roar:

A Wild Adventure' in the video kids had to do work that slaves did. I don't understand why the church would think this okay?'

### Recurring Questions

1. How has your understanding of whiteness progressed?
  - a. More specifically for this week, how are you going to build your racial stamina? (See pg. 125 for reference)
2. How do you sense God is calling you to respond? How do you sense God is calling the/your church to respond?
3. What are your lingering fragile responses and why?
4. Are you sure you understand the Cross?

### Homework

Before next week please watch the youtube video 'BBQ Becky'. Think through how her tears impacted the situation.  
<https://youtu.be/LgaU1hoQiLo>