

The Good News

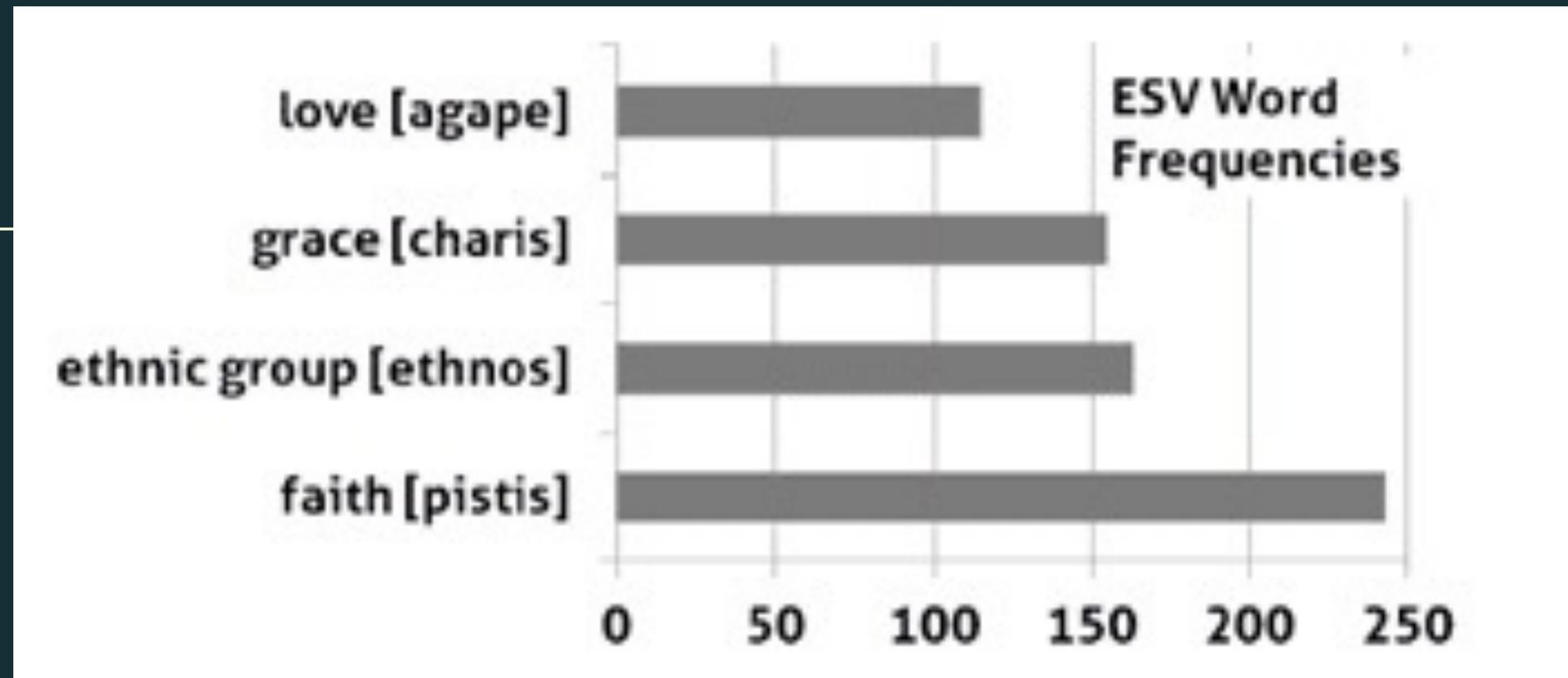
- the family of God is a radical alternative, a radical reversal
- There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
- Galatians 3:28



“THE BLUEPRINT OF THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD LOOKS NOTHING LIKE THE BLUEPRINTS OF OUR OWN CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CLIQUES.” —CHRISTENA CLEVELAND, *DISUNITY IN CHRIST*

Biblical basis for racial/ethnic justice

- 1. God isn't colorblind



Source: Renew Partnerships

Biblical basis for racial/ethnic justice

- 2. Jesus had an ethnic identity
- 3. Jesus cared deeply about social inequality
- 4. Paul appropriated the term *reconciliation* to describe the theology and sociology of the cross

Ephesians 2 (ESV)

- 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new [hu]man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,



What is reconciliation?

- Katallassō (Greek): political word used to discuss peace treaties between nations/groups
 - Means literally “to change or exchange”
- John De Gruchy: when we are “reconciled” we exchange places “with ‘the other,’ and (are) in solidarity with rather than against ‘the other.’”



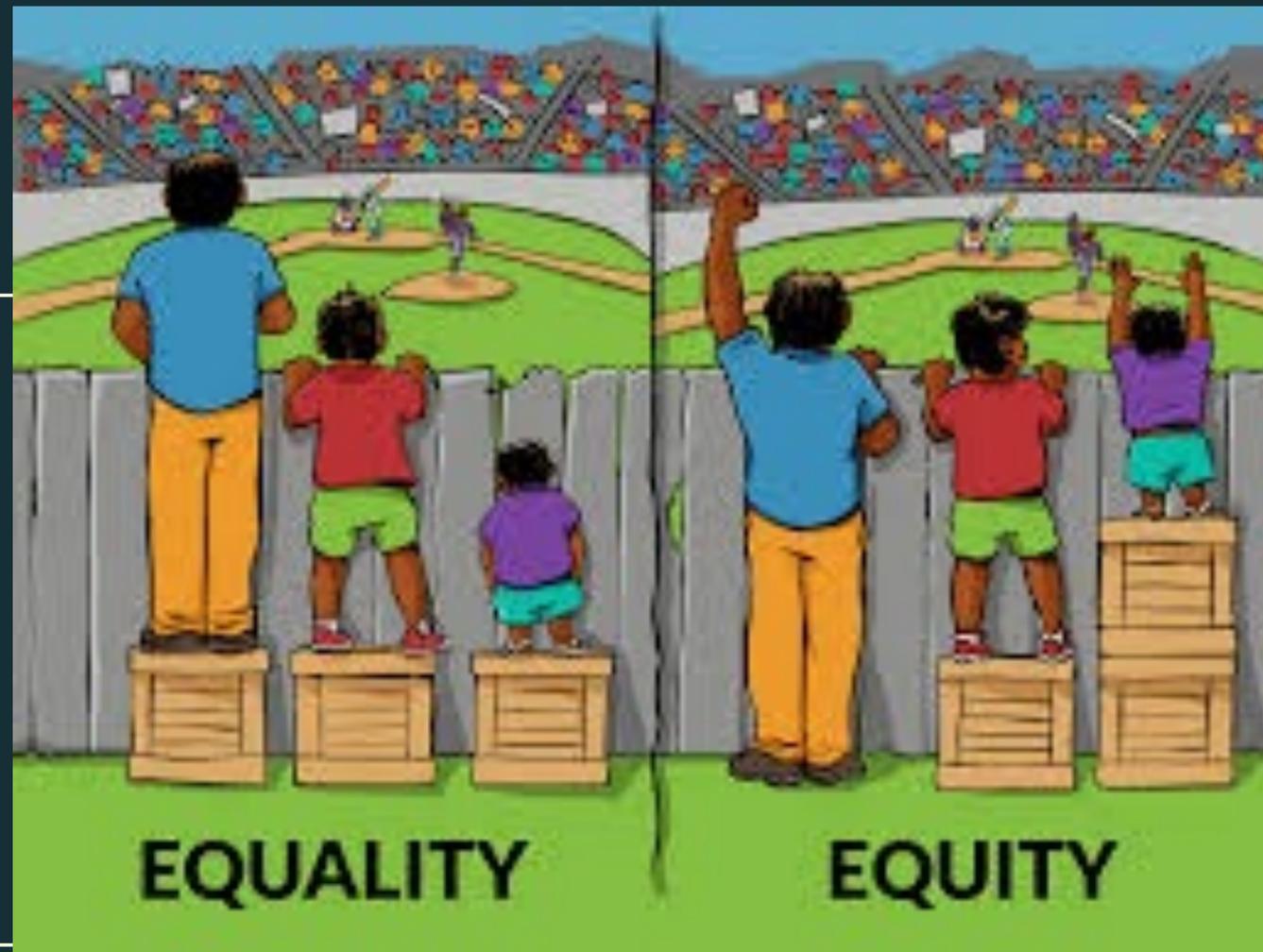
What is reconciliation?

- Reconciliation can be understood as exchanging places with “the other,” overcoming alienation through identification, solidarity, restoring relationships, positive change, new frameworks, and a rich togetherness that is both spiritual and political

--- Dr. Curtiss DeYoung

Biblical basis for racial/ethnic justice

- 5. Jesus is interested in equity, not equality





Definitions: race & ethnicity

- Both share an ideology of common ancestry, however
 - Race is socially imposed and hierarchical
 - Race is unitary, you can basically only be one race
 - you have no control over your race; it's how you're perceived by others.
- Ethnicity: the cultural identity of a group from a nation state;
 - you can claim multiple ethnicities



10 Things Everyone Should Know About Race

1. Race is a modern idea.
2. Race has no genetic basis.
3. Human subspecies don't exist.
4. Skin color really is only skin deep.
5. Most variation is within, not between, race.



10 Things Everyone Should Know About Race

6. Slavery predates race.
7. Race and freedom evolved together.
8. Race justified social inequalities as natural.
9. Race isn't biological, but racism is real.
10. Colorblindness will not end racism

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- **Stereotype:** a belief that associates a group of people with certain traits

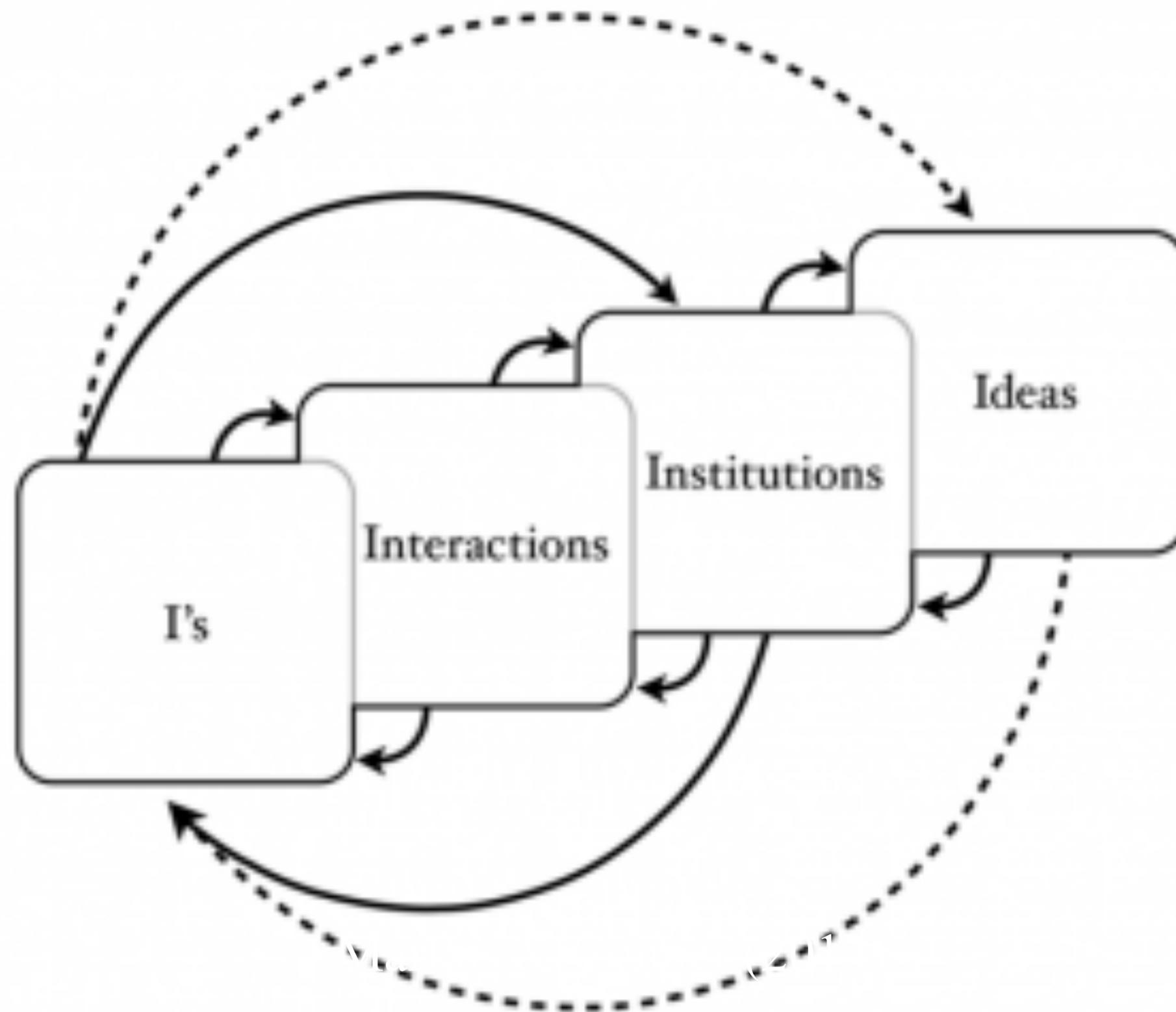
 - **Prejudice:** negative feelings toward persons based on their membership in certain groups
 - **Discrimination:** behavior directed against persons because of membership in a certain group
 - **Racism:** When people in power are prejudiced or discriminate based on race/ethnicity
 - **Structural Racism** in the U.S. is the normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics – historical, cultural, institutional and interpersonal – that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic adverse outcomes for people of color. It is a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy – the preferential treatment, privilege and power for white people at the expense of Black, Latino, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, Arab and other
 - racially oppressed people.



In my class and place, I did not recognize myself as a racist because I was taught to see racism only in individual acts of meanness by members of my group, never in invisible systems conferring unsought racial dominance on my group from birth.

Peggy McIntosh, 1988

The Culture Cycle





Why do I spend so many hours talking about the individual pains of people, while I leave the society that creates it unchanged?

- Henri Nouwen