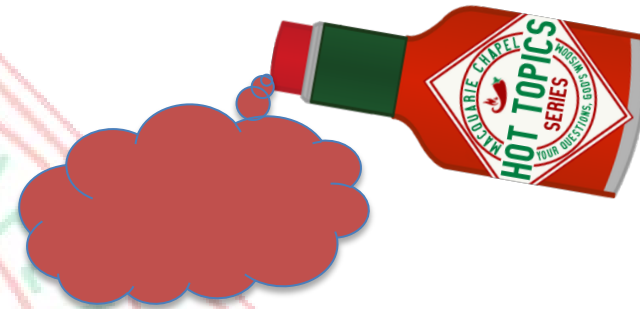


Hot Topics – The Introduction!

“In His Image”

Genesis 1:24-31

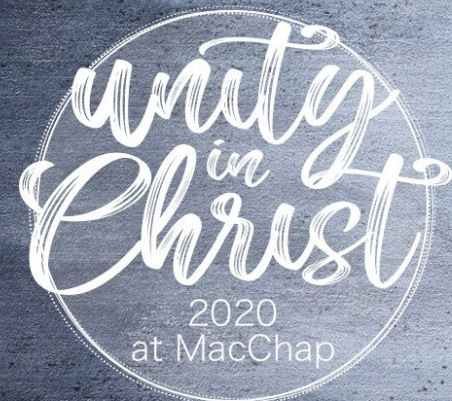


What is on the table today?



“A discussion between two or more people where (1) stakes are high, (2) opinions vary, and (3) emotions run strong.”

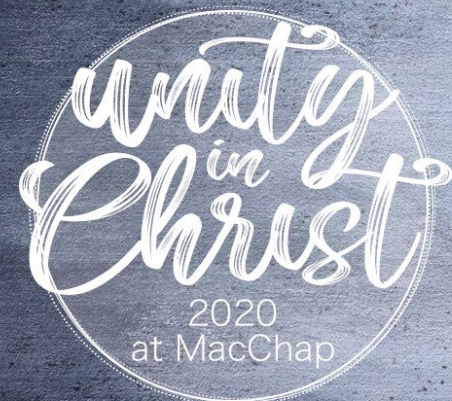
Crucial Conversations





What is on the table today?

- Christian perspective on social justice (e.g. refugees, black lives matter in an Australian context).
- Black lives matter – a biblical perspective on protest and racism.





1 - One Race - Genesis 1:24-31

- All the animals were created according to their kind e.g. v. 24.
- Then God made man according to his kind (sort of...) in His image - v. 26.
- God saw that this was all very good (v. 31)!

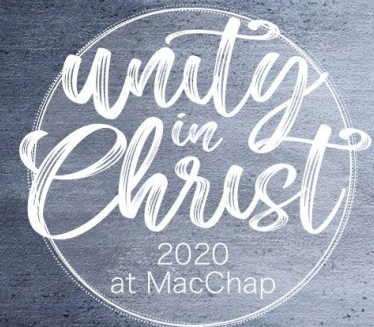




1 - One Race - Genesis 1:24-31

-Genesis 9:6

“Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man.”





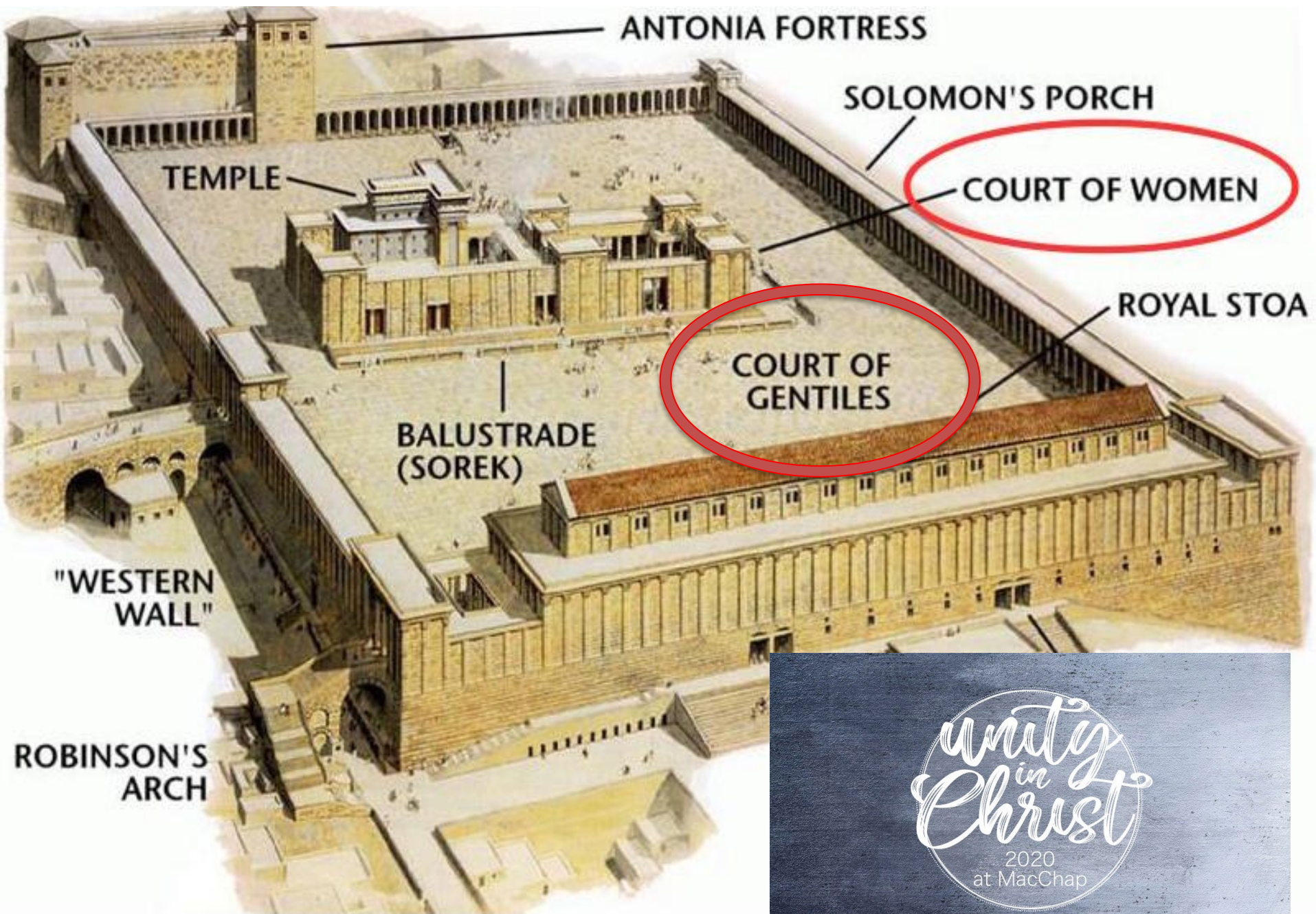
1 – One Race – Galatians 3:26-28

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus... there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

“Through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed...”

Genesis 22:18







2 – Christians & Protests

Matthew 21:1-17

A large crowd.

Lots of shouting.

The whole city was stirred.

This was a prophet/messiah/king?

Furniture was busted up.

Children shouting in the TEMPLE!!

Speeches were made.

Accusations were made both ways.

Everyone went home... Jesus countryside...



2 – Christians & Protests

Jesus called out those who used God for their own gain.

“Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?”

Matthew 26:55

Jesus was NOT Barabbas!



2 – Christians & Protests

Jesus never criticised secular authority.

Mark 12:17 Jesus supports taxes!

Jesus changed the world by dying...

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Colossians 1:19-20

What approach was Jesus (and Paul) taking?

What if I asked you to hit me with a baseball bat?

You might hit me. Internal Bad.

You might not because there are witnesses.

Ext.

You might not because of the law. Ext.

You might not because you do not want to hurt me – you love me. Internal Good.

You might offer me the bat if someone has to be hit... this is very good.

It is not about behaviour modification.

It is about heart modification.





3 – The Heart of the Problem

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Colossians 3:15



3 – The Heart of the Problem

“In fact, this is the first principle of dialogue – Start with Heart. That is, your own heart. If you can’t get yourself right, you’ll have a hard time getting dialogue right.
Crucial Conversations

Let the peace of God rule in your heart...

Centre in God's presence...

*"You are my precious child, and I do so love you.
I am so pleased with you and that you are on the
earth."*

Sense, if you can, God looking you directly in the eyes as he says these words.

Do not turn away from his gaze.

Do not resist his voice.

Allow yourself to be in his presence – do not leave this place in your mind quickly.

What do you feel? What do you feel God feeling as he looks with tenderness and strength into the windows of your soul?

