



"And now I am no more in the world,
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®
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ALL HAVE SINNED . . .

Last week's violence started in Baton Rouge with the shooting of a black man as he was being arrested by white police officers. A similar shooting occurred in St. Paul after a traffic stop. Then a sniper in Dallas, apparently in retaliation, killed five policemen and wounded numerous other officers. Blacks and whites were both shooters and victims in these various events, indicating that no single racial group can claim to be free from sin.

. . . BUT IT'S NOTHING NEW!

In New Testament times, Jews and Gentiles were antagonistic to each other. Both claimed to be justified in their hatred of the other. However, Paul says there is enough blame to go around. No individual or group of people can claim to be without sin, either in relationship to others or to God.

1. Why do you think people tend to see other racial groups as more guilty than their own in situations of social strife? How can we address that problem?
2. How do you explain the human tendency to rush to judgment about guilt or innocence before the facts are known?
3. What lessons for our tense racial situation can we draw from Paul's statements about Jews and Gentiles?
4. What does it mean in *your* life to fall short of God's glory? How do you personally try to overcome this inclination?
5. How does your relationship with Christ help you in your personal struggle with accepting people who are different than you?

—Charles R. Boatman

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