**Week 4  - Understanding Unconscious Bias: Seeing God and God's Image Bearers More Clearly** - Dr. Christina Edmondson

1. *Before* this presentation, what were your thoughts about implicit or unconscious bias? What did it mean to you personally? How has it affected your awareness?
2. Dr. Edmondson said that our implicit biases favor our “in group”. Have you witnessed, experienced, or shown implicit bias yourself in a school, work, church, or any other setting in a non-racial context? What about racially? Please describe.
3. She said that “*in theory*, implicit biases can be unlearned, can be changed”. Do you believe that to be true *in practice*? Do you have an example of change you’d like to share?
4. When Dr. Edmondson talks about western theologians who theorized about the noetic effects of sin, what do you think she means to “intellectualize and reason our way to Jesus”? Do you think that reasoning is not susceptible to sin? Why or why not?
5. Can you think of times when Jesus encouraged people not to intellectualize their walk with God? If so, how did he address it. (Nicodemus, wealthy ruler, teachers of the law, his closest disciples, others?)
6. Regarding the two empirical studies about **names** and **accents**, what are your thoughts with respect to things such as affirmative action or advertisements touting 100% U.S.-based customer service, etc.? Do you feel your name has ever denied access to an opportunity? Do you feel your accent has ever led to negative first impressions? If not, how would you feel if they did and are there any actions you could take to prevent it in the future?
7. In Romans 12:1-5, Paul urges us not to conform to the pattern of this world. What are a few “schemas” or “systems” we are confronted within our society today that fits this “pattern”? What have been the results of this pattern?
8. As Dr. Edmondson concludes, she states that “**your neighbor is the person you least want it to be**”. How can this belief change the way you see God, ourselves, and our neighbors rightly?
9. What image or story from Dr. Edmonson’s presentation will stay with you after tonight? Why? Did anything she presented make you uncomfortable? What growth opportunities – for you personally, or our faith community – might this lead to?