

The background is a repeating pattern of various geometric shapes on a light brown background. The shapes include circles, semi-circles, and concentric circles in shades of green, blue, and grey. Some circles are filled, while others are outlines. A large, solid green circle is centered on the page, containing the text.

human rights day

21 MARCH 2021

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Why do we remember this day?

Human Rights Day is a national day that is commemorated annually on 21 March to remind South Africans about the sacrifices that accompanied the struggle for the attainment of democracy in South Africa.

The new constitution in South Africa now includes the following rights:

- Equality – everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- Human dignity – everyone has inherent dignity and has the right for their dignity to be respected and protected.
- Freedom of movement and residence – everyone has a right to freedom of movement and to reside anywhere in the country.
- Language and culture – everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice.
- Life - everyone has the right to life.

As Christ-followers, what can we do on this day?

- Under apartheid law it was illegal for you to love your neighbour. The pass laws ensured that black and white were separated. On this

day, get together with a family of another culture for a meal or an outing and be thankful that we are free to live, love and serve alongside our friends – no matter their race or religion. Remember that the gospel affords people an even greater dignity than the law. We honour each other not because our constitution says it is illegal not to, but because every person bears the image of God.

- Think about the new constitution and our current South Africa. What 'human right' still needs action and recognition. Share around the table where you'd like to see change and in what specific situations you want justice.
- Pray for our own hearts – that we would be a people who would stand up for justice. Let us not be silent in the face of injustice. Instead, let us be active in praying for and seeking the shalom of the city in which we live.