

What The Bible Says About Racism

- I. Racism

Dehumanization

- Treating certain individuals or group of individuals as if they were not human

Stereotyping

- A too-simple and therefore distorted image of a group (Dict.com)
- It “is a lazy way of lumping together all of those who come from a certain class or race.”
- Statements which attempt to characterize a group of people by saying, “all such and such are...”

Prejudice

- “an unfavorable opinion or feeling formed beforehand or without knowledge, thought, or reason.”
(Dict.com)
- “Prejudice comes from a closed mind without any desire or effort put forth to learn the facts.”

Discrimination

- “unfair treatment of a person, racial group, minority, etc; action based on prejudice” (Dict.com)

Jesus suffered from racism ⁷

Jn. 1:46

- [46] And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see

Jn. 4:9

- [9] Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans

- II. What the Bible says about racism

- The Gospel of Christ is the only true and lasting solution to the problem of racism

Christians are to be different¹¹ from the world --- Mt. 5:14

- [14] Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid

A. There is a more excellent ¹² way

- 1 Cor. 12:31
- [31] But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way

1 Cor. 13:1-7

- This way involves love – Agape love
- It is a love given freely, selflessly – it is given without regard for the loved one's condition

- 1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am become sounding brass, or a clanging cymbal.
- 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

- ³ And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and if I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profiteth me nothing.
- ⁴ Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

- ⁵ doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not its own, is not provoked, taketh not account of evil;
- ⁶ rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth;
- ⁷ beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (ASV)

Mt. 22:39

- **[39]** And the second is like unto it,
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as
thyself.

Lk. 10:29

- [29] But he, willing to justify himself, said unto Jesus, And who is my neighbour?

Lk. 10:36-37

- **[36]** Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?
- **[37]** And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.

- Everyone is our neighbor
- In God's eyes, everyone is deserving of love, including those we have been taught to hate , and those who have been taught to hate us

Mt. 5:44

- [44] But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you

B. Racism between Jew and ²² Gentile in the first century

- The hatred between the Jews and Gentiles of the first century is perhaps the best comparison to the modern day interracial strife

Acts 15:7-9

- [7] And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

- [8] And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;
[9] And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Acts 10:34-35

- **[34]** Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
[35] But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

1 Pet. 1:17

- **[17]** And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear

Rom. 1:14-16

- **[14]** I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.
[15] So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

- **[16]** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Rom. 2:11

- **[11]** For there is no respect of persons with God.

Js. 2:1

- [1] My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

- 1 My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. (ESV)
- 1 My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of* personal favoritism. (NASB)

- **Partiality (respect of persons)** = is the same as prejudice – it means judging someone on their outward circumstances and not on their true inward worth

1 Sam. 16:7

- [7] But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart

Js. 2:9

- [9] But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.
- ⁹ but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (NKJV)

Js. 2:8-9

- [8] If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:
[9] But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors

The unity of the human race ³⁶

Acts 17:26

- [26] And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

Accountable to Christ

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Acts 17:30-31

- **[30]** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

[31] Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

- NOTE – “An acceptance of diversity in culture and race does not imply acceptance of diversity in religion.”

- NOTE – we have something in common – that common part is the image of God

Gen. 1:27

- [27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them

- The Gospel of Christ is the only solution to the problem of racism

- References – (1) A Christian Response to Racism, by Trevor J. Major and Richard D. Melson – published tract from Apologetics Press
- (2) Moral Issues: Racism – outline and notes, but I do not remember the name of the author