

Answering the Challenges of Racism

(Ephesians 2:14-18)

Even though we have come a long way, unfortunately even in 2016, racism continues to be on a lot of people's minds. It continues to pose challenges to people across the globe. But thankfully, the Bible provides a solution to this problem.

Let's consider how the scriptures can help effectively answer the challenges of racism.

I. What is the problem?

- A. Here are some definitions of racism.
 - 1. "When one views their race as being superior and has the right to dominate others, or that a particular racial group is inferior to others." Dictionary.com
 - 2. "Poor treatment of or violence against people because of their race, or the belief that some races of people are better than others." Merriam-Webster.com
 - 3. This problem existed even in Bible times (John 4:9; Acts 17:24-27).
- B. At the core of racism is a heart problem! (See Mark 7:20-23)
- C. Why is racism wrong and sinful?
 - 1. Because all people are important to God (Genesis 1:27).
 - 2. Because it goes against loving your neighbor as yourself (Luke 10:27).
 - 3. Because it goes against what Jesus accomplished on the cross (Galatians 3:27-28).

II. What is the solution?

- A. Jesus Christ
- B. Jesus loves all people!
 - 1. He died for all people (1 Timothy 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:15).
 - 2. He died to tear down racial barriers (Ephesians 2:14-18).
 - 3. He died so that we can all become one in His body (Ephesians 4:4).
 - 4. He died so that we all can be adopted into the family of God (Galatians 3:28-29).

III. How should we respond?

- A. Examine our hearts (Acts 10:34-35).
- B. Bridge the gap (Matthew 5:9).
- C. Avoid judging situations quickly (Proverbs 12:18; 29:20; James 1:19; 1 Corinthians 13:7).
- D. Hold others accountable (Galatians 2:11-14).
- E. Love everyone (Luke 10:27-29; Matthew 28:19).
- F. Treat others like we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12).
- G. Pray for people who are racist (1 Timothy 2:1-2; Luke 23:34). Remember vengeance belongs to the Lord (Romans 12:17-21).
- H. Remember heaven (John 14:2).

Conclusion: Let's continue to work together to show the world the love of God and how wrong and foolish racism is!

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