

Life Questions – What Does the Bible Say About Race and Race Relations?

Tonight's question is: "What does the Bible say about race and race relations? I've heard people say that marrying outside of your own race is being "unequally yoked" and in today's society racism and racial unrest seems to be everywhere. What does God say about it?"

First off let me say thank you to whoever asked this question – I love that you ended it with "What does God say about it?".

When we have problems, dilemmas, see situations the world will all have their solutions, but we should start with "What does God say about it?".

I want us to look at race and racism tonight, but I ask that we look at this not as a member of a political party, not even as Americans, but first and foremost as Christians.

Not since the rise Nazism under Hitler during the 1930's & 40's and the Apartheid in South Africa in the later part of the 20th century has there been so much discussion and separation on race.

What are we to think? Everywhere we look something is being called out as racist or we're being called a racist.

- Sometimes we're being called racist for our actions, other times for not doing anything at all.

In actuality, the powers pushing this are trying to have it both ways and have shown themselves to be beyond hypocritical in their views.

- We live in a world that condemns racial discrimination, yet promotes evolution – The Two Don't Mix

What we'll see in the Word of God is that Christianity is against racism, while the worldview of Evolution is pro-racism.

There are two primary views of life.

The world's evolutionary view believes the tree of life model.

- In this model, all living organisms started from a single cell organism and developed by mutations into the millions of plants, animals and humans that we see today.
- This means, under this worldview, that different humans developed at different times with different abilities.
- If this is true, there would be no reason to assume equality. In fact, equality wouldn't even be an attribute that makes sense.
- Why would be trying to make two or more things that are different equal to each other? It isn't logical or reasonable.
- What we've found is that most scientist have had to concur that we come from a common ancestry as humans.

The Biblical view believes in the orchard of life model.

- All plants, animals and humans developed within their "kind" by natural selection to their status today.
- What does that mean?
 - o All dogs varieties from a common ancestry of canine
 - o All cats, All palm trees, All worms
 - o Not a fish to a frog to lizard to a dog to an ape to a man
 - o All humans are from a common ancestry – Adam & Eve
- From those common ancestors all the different ethnicities have arisen.

In Acts 17:26, the Apostle Paul was speaking to the Grecians on Mars Hill and confirmed this about God – "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".

Paul confirms the biblical view on race to the Grecians that God sees all of mankind as "one blood".

Then why do we look and act so different?

In Genesis 11 we find our answer – "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech" – Vs. 1

Vs. 5-9 – "And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they

have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth."

Also, back in Gen. 10:25 we read – "And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided..."

Vs. 31 – "...after their families, after their tongues, in their lands, after their nations."

Based on the genealogies, Peleg was born 5 years after the tower of Babel. It was during his lifetime that the families of the earth were divided.

- The wickedness prior to the flood was beginning to rear its ugly head again, so God did something to separate man from being one in thought and deed. They (God the Trinity) confounded their language in Babel.

This action had a dramatic effect on not just language but even on genetics.

Post-Babel the descendants of the 16 grandsons of Noah headed off into different areas of the world based on the language that they spoke.

(Table of Nations Map)

There were two things that occurred as a result:

1. Genetic Isolation – The gene pool became smaller for each of the groups that headed off to their section of the world.
2. Natural Selection – Have you ever wondered why there are mostly pale skinned blondes in the Nordic areas of the world and dark skinned people in Africa.
 - After isolating to different parts of the world, natural selection would take place over the generations.
 - The extreme sun in Africa – increased skin cancer/vitamin B – darker skin survives the climate

- Low sun in the Nordic areas – Darker skin less ability to obtain Vitamin D/rickets – lighter skin survives the climate

Generations go by with an isolated gene pool and natural selection and we have form distinct ethnicity.

With this isolation also creates the start of a culture within the ethnicity.
Different traditions, thoughts, beliefs, character traits

As geneticists have studied our DNA they have found that the biological variations between ethnicities is 0.012% and the outward differences (appearance) is 0.01%.

- That is a near zero difference between all ethnicities, yet people allow it to separate each other.

Racism is contrary to word of God. We are “one blood” and God sees each of us as a soul that He loves and sent His Son to die for.

Consider this:

When a Christian does something racist, it is not right, but it is contrary to the teachings of the Word of God.

When the world does something racist, it is complete agreement with their worldview.

- The problem is most people never think their worldview. They want to have it both ways.

Racism boils down to pride – Gal. 6:3 – “For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.”

We must consider people as God sees us – 1 Sam. 16:7 – “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.”

We must see people as souls that need saved and disciplined.

The real struggle comes not so much from the physical differences as the cultural differences. This is where struggles arise because we (all sides) expect others to fit within our culture's norms. It gives us comfort.

- There's a reason when you go to large cities you can find little Italy, Chinatown, etc.
- There's such a large German population in the Cincinnati area.
- Being around like-minded people culturally gives us comfort.
- People of all cultures struggle when that is disturbed or threatened.

However, we must not allow ourselves to be small-minded and elevate ourselves above others. No one faced this more than the Lord when He humbled Himself to become a man.

Phil 2:3-7 – "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men..."

Christians have no room for racism and ethnic slurs in our life if we follow Jesus' example. He demonstrated the opposite of pride. He humbled Himself to be a help us. We do not need to tear down others to prove our worth and strength.

So, how do we deal with this in our everyday life.

First, we need to understand what is going on in our world.

Second, we need to stand for what is right.

1. Understanding what is going on in our world.

There are two phrases that are more than just buzzwords being thrown around daily – Systemic Racism and Critical Race Theory

- **Systemic Racism** claims that racism has been baked into the very foundations of every institution and norm of our society.
 - This makes underrepresented ethnicities oppressed and represented ethnicities the oppressors
 - Things like work ethic, work appearance are considered forced on the oppressed
 - Some colleges are changing how they evaluate applicants by no longer looking at SAT or ACT scores due to inequity in education.
 - Even the sciences and mathematics are said to be based on racist roots.
- The term equality – meaning equal opportunity is being replaced with the term equity – meaning equal outcome despite effort

The second phrase being thrown around is “**Critical Race Theory**”.

- This was a theory developed in the 1970’s at Harvard university.
- It holds that the most important thing about you is your race. The color of your skin is what is important. Not your behavior, not your values, not your environment.
- If you are part of a “minoritized racial group” you are a victim of a system that is rigged against you. A system that doesn’t want you to succeed.
- If you are part of the majority racial group you are an exploiter, whether you intend to be or not.
- CRT begins from the assumption that racism occurs in all interactions.
- Example of store owner with two customers – one white, one black
 - CRT states – Black man first – You don’t trust him and think he’ll steal
 - CRT states – White man first – You think the black man is 2nd class
- CRT believes that all the work from the civil war to the civil rights movement did not help to lessen racism, but is simply a mirage and that racism has just hid itself better.

This flies in the face of Christian values for all ethnicities. It undermines personal responsibility for our actions and our sin.

It is the opposite of the civil rights movement. It is the opposite of MLK Jr’s decree of valuing a person by the content of their character.

I don’t mean to go into sociology, but CRT is simply a variation of Marxism.

- CRT replaces the social class warring of Marxism with racial warring. Pitting one group against the other. The conflict between the oppressed and the oppressor. Where it is either win or lose.

What should we as Christians do about racism and the world's theories?

1. Follow God's Word – Our actions toward all people should show that they are individuals that are valued.
 - They were made in the image of God
 - Jesus Christ was sent to die for their sin
 - They, therefore, should be treated with respect and we should have a desire for their best.
2. Don't Be Intimidated – Kindness and Love toward our fellow man does not mean we are door mats
 - We are to protect our families
 - It is our God given responsibility to train, protect and provide for our children and family – Not the government
 - Know what is being taught in your school
 - Schools around the nation are instituting CRT into their curriculum
 - Corporations are mandating CRT training for their employees
 - We as individuals are the church – We are salt and light
 - We need to loving, but firmly stand for truth but expect that there will be a price to pay
 - o Do not attack the character of others
 - o Do not go on a social media attack
 - o Firmly request to review content
 - Count the cost – When is enough enough at work, at school, in an organization?
3. Don't allow yourself to be bullied into thinking that you're racist when you know you're not.
4. Don't allow yourself to be bullied into thinking that you're a victim when you know you're not.
 - Accept personal responsibility for your actions before God and man

This has gained as much steam in our schools and society as the gender issues and it is not going away.

Does racism occur? – Without a doubt
Is Christianity racist? – No

Christianity flies in the face of societies answers. Society wants to break us down into groups based on our status or ethnicity.

Christianity wants to bring us together as “one blood” forgiven of our sin through the shed blood of Jesus Christ for all mankind.

We must keep the main thing, the main thing – Reaching the lost and discipling them in God’s Word

- But may we also protect those God has entrusted to us.