

# Moral Issues: Racism

(James 2:1)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. - "If any Christian wants to know how to treat the colored people, read God's explicit instruction to the Jews on that particular subject...[“you shall conquer them and utterly destroy them. You shall make no covenant with them nor show mercy to them. Nor shall you make marriages with them. You shall not give your daughter to their son, nor take their daughter for your son.] ...They have always been cursed with a sense of fear, ignorance, superstition and an inferior complex...We have to admit that we have had some very well educated Negroes among us. Some who have made good in business and various trades. How do you account for that? Yes, all those Negroes who have a generous fertilization of white blood have invariably left the evidence of it behind them. But the genuine Negro article is just what he had always been.” (Sermon preached by W.A. Cameron to the Disston Ave. Church of Christ in St. Petersburg, FL, Sunday, August 15, 1954).
  2. You might think that such a statement was made at an “Aryan Nation” rally or a “Clan” rally, but it was actually preached from one of our pulpits.
  3. Racism, like any other moral issue confronts, not only our culture, but the church situated in that culture.
    - a. Note throughout history how the church is not immune to the negative impact from its immoral culture.
  4. The challenge of the church is to impact culture rather than be impacted by culture (Romans 12:2).
  5. Let's discuss the issue of racism and what God's word says about this subject.

## I. Manifestations of Racism

- A. Dehumanization.
  1. Speaking of the black race, Edward Long in his “The History of Jamaica” said, “When we reflect on...their dissimilarity to the rest of mankind, must we not conclude that they are a different species of the same genus?”
  2. French author, J.H. Guenebault said in his work, “Natural History of the Negro Race,” “It is then impossible to deny that they form not only a race, but truly a species, distinct from all other races of men known on the globe.” They belong to “the age genus,” and he placed them somewhere between orangutans and white human beings.
  3. Ernst Haeckel - “The Evolution of Man” has a family tree chart in which it has, perched on the branches, a chimpanzee, a gorilla, an orangutang, and an Negro.
  4. While not denying their humanity, Ulrich B. Phillips in his work, “American Negro Slavery” stated that Negroes were neither property nor animals, but children who could not be taken seriously as adults.
- B. Stereotypes.

1. Stereotyping is a lazy way of lumping together all of those who come from a certain class or race.
  2. More often than not, these stereotypes are unkind and uncomplimentary.
  2. Statements which attempt to characterize a group of people by saying, "all such and such are..." is too broad and will unjustly misrepresent some individuals.
- C. Prejudice.
1. Prejudice is the sentence of a closed mind without any desire or effort put forth to learn the facts.
  2. Prejudice manifests itself in the use of crude descriptions of people that are offensive and demeaning (Ephesians 4:29).
- D. Discrimination.
1. Racism often closes doors of opportunity due to the hatred.
  2. Ills. - Black people not welcome in "white" churches.
  3. Ills. - Christian colleges not accepting black students.

## II. What The Bible Says About Racism

- A. In New Testament times, the issue of racism was very relevant. Not from a black/white perspective, but a Jew/Gentile perspective.
1. Probably in comparison, the black/white issue of today pales in comparison to the Jew/Gentile issue of the first century.
- B. Jesus, himself suffered from racism (John 1:46; John 4:9).
- C. (James 2:1).
- D. (Acts 10:34; Galatians 3:28).
- E. (Isaiah 11:1-9).
- F. (Acts 17:16-34).
1. (v. 26) - Proclaimed the unity of the human race.
  2. (vs. 30-31) - Proclaimed accountability to Christ.
    - a. An acceptance of diversity in culture and race does not imply acceptance of diversity in religion.
    - b. One's culture may be appreciated by not its idolatry.
- Conclusion:
1. Racism is the sin of pride (Proverbs 6:16-17).
  2. Race makes no difference to God.
  3. The God we serve is color blind.
  4. Instead of concerning ourselves with differences in the color of our skin, maybe we would all be better served to concentrate on our similarities, namely we are all humans, made in the image of God, and in need of a Savior.