

Thinking Biblically About Race

Genesis 1:26-28; 3:28;
Acts 17:26a; Ephesians 2:11-22

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For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.
(Matthew 15:19)

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A. The one, common source of human beings is the creative work of God:

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gen.1:26-27).

I. Creation reveals the foundational oneness of all human beings.

B. The one, common ancestry of human beings began with the first man and woman God created:

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

1. Adam is the father of us all.

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, (Acts 17:26a).

2. Eve is the mother of us all.

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. (Genesis 3:20).

II. The fall broke the foundational oneness of all human beings (Genesis 3)

III. God used the death of Christ to unite His people by tearing down walls of racial and ethnic prejudice and hostility (Ephesians 2:11-22).

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility . . . that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (Eph.2:13-16)

“Racism is an explicit or implicit belief or practice that qualitatively distinguishes or values one race over other races.”

- Presbyterian Church in America

“But if racism is defined in terms of exclusion, then racism occurs wherever anyone is dismissed or disowned or demeaned or stereotyped for no other reason than his or her race or ethnicity.”

- D.A. Carson

“Johnson defined systemic racism, also called structural racism or institutional racism, as "systems and structures that have procedures or processes that disadvantages African Americans."

- USA Today quoting Derrick Johnson

Thomas Sowell said in a recent interview that he has “no idea” what the proponents of the existence of “institutional racism” mean and that they themselves do not know “what they mean.”

Paul tells us that the only way years of distrust, prejudice, and outright hatred can be overcome is by *the blood of Christ* (His death on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins).

“The issues that face us are complex and enormous, and simply wishing they would go away will not solve them. I do not pretend to know the full answer.

But let those of us who claim the name of Christ repent of our past failures and, relying on the Holy Spirit, demonstrate to a weary and frightened world that Christ indeed *has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility* (Eph. 2:14-15).

- Billy Graham.