

- There are many problems facing this country that we live in. Over the past year, we have seen one such problem show its ugly face time and time again and in different places throughout the country. That problem is racism. The events of Ferguson, Missouri, New York City, and other cities around this country have shown us that hatred for another person simply because of the color of their skin is not dead and gone. Unfortunately, many people are still holding on to feelings that were prominent many years ago on both sides of this issue. Some refuse to let go of wrongs done to their distant relatives many years ago, and others will still treat others with disdain simply because of the color of their skin. That is true racism. Racism is hatred and disdain for another human simply because of the way they look or where they come from. It is the pre-judgement of another simply based upon appearance.
- Without God, this wouldn't be something that could be criticized. Without God, we would have freedom to do completely as we please, and if that means harboring hate against my neighbor because he has darker or lighter skin than me, then that must be accepted because without God there is no set standard of morality or behavior. This life would be nothing but survival of the fittest, and if I can survive by hating, harming, or killing another people because they look differently than I do, then so be it.
- But we, as Christians, understand that this is not something that is acceptable. This is not behavior that we are to engage ourselves in. We sing songs about God and Jesus loving all the little children of the world. Whether they are red, yellow, black, or white, we know that they are all precious in His sight. We think this way because we believe in God and we believe in His Word, we recognize that He has spoken concerning how we are to treat our neighbor, regardless of his or her background or appearance. This morning, let's consider 5 Biblical reasons that racism needs to stop. As Christians, it always good for us to be reminded why we do as we do. It is good for us to be reminded that it is shameful for us to feel any type of hatred for another based upon appearance alone. God has certainly spoken on this issue and it is always good for us to be reminded of His will for us in this life, even on an issue such as this. So while we may be speaking against a particular behavior this morning, we are also speak for love for one another. We are speaking for God's love for all people. It is never a bad thing for us to be reminded that God loves all people.

I. All human beings are made in the image of God.

A. God created human beings differently from all other living things.

1. We were created in His image. **(Gen. 1:26,27)**
2. We have an eternal existence within us, our soul.
3. We are above all other living things.
4. We have the ability to understand and feel intense emotions.
5. We have the ability to reason and come to logical conclusions.
6. These characteristics separate all humans from all other living beings.

B. Other Biblical writers confirm these characteristics we see here in **Genesis.**

1. Paul confirmed our relationship with God by stating that we "are His children". **(Acts 17:28,29)**
2. James in dealing with the power of the tongue says that it can both bless and curse those who have been made in the likeness of God. **(James 3:8,9)**
3. They all agree that we are from God and made in the image or likeness of God.

C. It is illogical to think that we can praise God in one breath and then turn around and curse others who may look differently than us with the next and still be pleasing to God.

II. God only made one race, the human race.

A. We all originate from the same place.

1. All people are descendants of Adam and Eve. **(Gen. 3:20)**
2. Even beyond them and closer to now, we are all descendants of Noah and his wife. **(Gen. 6-8)**

B. The Apostle Paul recognized that all people come from the same lineage.

1. Paul said that from "one man" or "one blood" (YLT) all people came forth. **(Acts 17:26)**
2. All people are scientifically classified as *homo sapiens*. It's not as if white folks are classified one way and other ethnicities are classified differently. We are all the same.
3. We many have different external characteristics, but when you open us all up, we all bleed red and we all operate the same way.
4. We are all from Adam and Noah, and we are all part of the human race.

C. If we hate another person because we think they are different than us, then we are just flat out wrong. We all come from the same most distant ancestry. We are all sons and daughters of Adam and Eve.

III. God doesn't play favorites.

- A. The only factor that separates people in the eyes of God is the willingness to obey or disobey.
 - 1. God is too pure to approve of evil and He cannot look upon wickedness with favor. (**Hab. 1:13**)
 - 2. The sins of Israel separated them from God. (**Isa. 59:2**)
 - 3. Never do we find where God or Jesus turned people away because of their different ethnic backgrounds.
 - 4. In fact, God made it very clear to Samuel when he was appointing the next King of Israel that He didn't look at people as men look at them. While men are concerned with the outward appearance, God is more concerned and interested in the heart of the individual. (**I Sam. 16:1-12**)
- B. God shows no partiality based upon appearance.
 - 1. God shows no partiality to the alien, foreigner, or sojourner, but He provides for their needs. (**Deut. 10:17-19**)
 - 2. Peter, possibly referencing to what is said in Deuteronomy, says something very similar in **Acts 10:34-36**. His main point is that God accepts all people to Himself based upon their actions.
 - 3. James encourages the brethren he is writing to, to not show personal favoritism towards some based solely upon their appearance. They were to treat all people the same. (**James 2:1-4**)
- C. We should treat all people the same as well. We would be wise to follow the teachings of Jesus in **John 7:24**, and “not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.” His point? Don't judge solely based upon the eyes, but make sure to investigate the heart.

IV. Love is not racist.

- A. Christians should be bearing fruits of the Spirit, and one of those is love. (**Gal. 5:22-25**)
 - 1. As Christians, we should understand that we are expected to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (**II Peter 3:18**) We show our growth by displaying these godly characteristics.
 - 2. Paul wanted the love of the Philippians to grow and grow. (**Phil. 1:9-10**)
 - 3. Love is such an important characteristic for the Christian because it is the greatest of all traits. (**I Cor. 13:4-6, 13**)
 - 4. Love is to be without hypocrisy. What greater hypocrisy can there be than to say you love Christ yet you hate your neighbor based upon the way they look?
- B. No Christian can be filled with hate and yet say they are Christ like.
 - 1. We cannot say that we love God and yet hate our brother. (**I John 4:20,21**)
 - 2. True love for God and all people does not allow us to hate our neighbor. (**The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37**)
- C. The hypocrite says he loves God, yet he does not love his neighbor. If we refuse to love our neighbor based on his or her skin color then we are no better than the worst of sinners because we lack the greatest of all things in love.

V. Jesus died for all people of the earth.

- A. God's plan always included all people of the earth, not just some of a particular color.
 - 1. God's initial promise to Abraham included the blessing of all nations through his seed. (**Gen. 12:3**)
 - 2. God reaffirmed this promise based upon his faithful and righteous actions in being willing to offer up his son. (**Gen.22:18**)
- B. Jesus claimed that He was coming to be the savior of all the world (**I John 4:14**), not just some.
 - 1. God our Savior desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. (**I Timothy 2:3,4**)
 - 2. That is why He sent His Son to die, so that “whoever believes” in Him will be saved, regardless of skin color. (**John 3:16**)
 - 3. Because God wants all people to be saved, the Gospel should be taken to all people of all nations. (**Luke 24:47**)
 - 4. Paul recognized that the Gospel had the power to save all people, regardless of their ethnicity or background. (**Rom. 1:16**)
- C. If God loved all people enough to give of Himself for them, then how do we think we should love and treat those who are all around us. There is no room for hatred in the Kingdom of God because we are all one in Christ Jesus. (**Gal. 3:27-29**)

The love of God was given out to all people, and may we be the type of people who show that exact same love for all others. Some genuinely struggle with the issue of racism because of the era they grew up in. Some were the recipients of hatred and some were the dealers of it. Those types of actions can be hard to forget and they can be hard to get past, but may we remember that Jesus didn't give His blood only for those who look like us, but for all people who bleed red. His precious blood can cleanse us of our sins, and His grace can teach us how to love all people. May God help us to show love to all people of this world, and do whatever we can to show them the love and grace that God demonstrated through the giving of Himself for our sins.