

COLORED PEOPLE

Some of the most infamous racists in history claimed to be Christian. Adolf Hitler, members of the Ku Klux Klan, and even leaders in churches right in our area hate people of a different color. Some have gone so far as to say the Bible *condones* racism.

But ... what *does* the Bible say about the different races? Is God's Word pro-slavery? Is inter-racial marriage a crime against God's Word? Against nature? Are all-white or all-black churches pleasing to the Lord?

I. Can the Bible be used to justify racist attitudes?

A. God's Word makes it clear that all humans are ONE BLOOD. (Acts 17:26)

-- 1 Cor. 15:45; Gen. 1:26-27; Job 31:13-15; Col. 3:11

B. Doesn't the Bible condone slavery?

> Titus 2:9-10; Eph. 6:5; Philemon (Does Philemon endorse or discourage slavery?)

> NO! Gal. 3:28;

-- Jesus came to bring FREEDOM from oppression. Luke 4:16-21 (Isaiah 61:1)

-- Many CHOSE to be slaves. (Ex. 21:6)

-- Slavery wasn't always racial (bondservants)

-- Slavery served as a metaphor (Romans 6:16ff)

-- Job preaches human EQUALITY (Job 31:13-15)

II. Why are there different races?

A. Evolutionist say: Some people are more like their ape-like ancestors than others.

* ex: Australian Aborigines –considered the “missing link” – justified terrible prejudice & injustice

“At the lowest stage of human mental development are the Australians, some tribes of the Polynesians, and the Bushmen, Hottentots, and some of the Negro tribes. Nothing, however, is perhaps more remarkable in this respect, than that some of the wildest tribes in southern Asia and eastern Africa have no trace whatever of the first foundations of all human civilization, of family life, and marriage. They live together in herds, like apes. – Ernst Haeckel

B. Hurtful, False Teachings from the Bible

1. CURSE OF HAM (Gen. 9:25)

-- black people likely descended from Ham – but not Canaan (the curse was on Canaan)

-- NO EVIDENCE the curse had *anything* to do with skin color

2. MARK ON CAIN (Gen. 4: 13-15)

-- NO Biblical evidence that the mark is skin color.

-- the mark's purpose demonstrates MERCY!

C. The Correct Biblical View

1. The genes for every racial characteristic were in Noah & his family.
2. Gen. 11:1-8 – The Tower of Babel explains the different races (*usually thought of in terms of*

language)

Q: What was the people's reason for building the tower?

Q: What was the end result of their attempt? (v.4) SCATTERING!

> Gen. 1:28; 9:7

How does this narrative explain different races?

- (a) People no longer mixed freely with other groups – splitting of the GENE POOL
- (b) Over successive generations, certain characteristics would become more prevalent

(genetics 101)

- (c) Certain genetic sets favor different climates.

Ex: high sunlight vs low sunlight proportional to high melanin vs low melanin

D. But ... are there *really* different “races” at all?

* Q: Is race more of a physical term or a social term? SOCIAL

*“More and more scientists find that the differences that set us apart are cultural, not racial. Some even say that the word **race** should be abandoned because it's meaningless.”*

-- ABC News

* A better term? PEOPLE GROUPS

> RACIAL DIFFERENCES

1. All “racial” characteristics are only minor variations among people groups.
2. Basic genetic differences between any 2 people = **.2%**
3. Racial characteristics account for only **.012%** of human biological variation.
i.e. Racial differences are TRIVIAL! **(.01%)**
4. There is more difference within any *one* people group than between *different* people groups!

III. Practical Reasons that Race Matters

Q: If there's only 1 race, what happens when different people groups collide?

* Interracial Marriage:

- Malachi 2:15 – a purpose for marriage: **GODLY OFFSPRING!**
- Matt. 19; Eph. 5 – “ONE FLESH” – works if there's one race
- 2 Cor. 6:14 – “UNEQUALLY YOKED”
 - > One of the few limitations to marriage that is NT endorsed!

Ex: Rahab – a Canaanite married into Israel > Christ

Ruth – a Moabitess – had faith in Yahweh (1:16) > Christ

** WARNING ** -- it won't be easy!

- > Marriage never is – we all have issues to resolve.
- > But why is it hard? Cultural Prejudice

> Crossing of People Groups has produced:

Tiger Woods, Mariah Carey, Joakim Noah, Blake Griffin

The Church should take the lead in combating racism!