

WHAT IS A HUMAN?



WHAT IS MAN THAT YOU ARE MINDFUL OF HIM?

A Vision of Biblical Proportions

On August 28, 1963, M. L. King stood before the Lincoln Memorial and said,

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. . . . I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

A Vision of Biblical Proportions

On Sunday in 90 AD, John the Apostle standing on the island Patmos said,

“I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from *all tribes and peoples and languages*, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

God's Perspective

God desired all humans to dwell together in unity, bound together by a single bloodline celebrating a single Savior, and glorifying a single Creator.

Then sin happened. Husband blamed wife. Brother killed brother. Human relationships were broken. People groups began to use, abuse, harm, and hate their fellow creatures.

Racism

Racism is the belief in the superiority of one race over another, which often results in discrimination and prejudice towards people based on their race or ethnicity.

Racism is not limited to country. It is not limited to a skin color. It is not limited to a period of time. It is an universal problem beginning post-Eden and rooted in sin.

Biblical Response to Racism

1. God is absolute reality. Race cannot be properly understood without God.

The most ultimate and the most central and most foundational reality that exists is God. Before there was a universe, there was God. God is eternal with no beginning and no ending. He said to Moses, “Tell them I Am sent you. I Am who I Am.” He’s absolute. Everything else is derivative. Everything else is dependent including all human beings. Therefore, God is the most important being and the most valuable being that exists. Everything else has meaning and everything else has worth because of its connection to and its derivation from God and his worth. Everything has meaning and worth because it mirrors more or less God’s worth and God’s truth. His truth, his goodness, his beauty define all that is really true, all that is really good, and all that is beautiful.

J. Piper

Biblical Response to Racism

2. Man is in the image of God. The meaning of human personhood is rooted first in who we are as images of God. Physical differences are secondary compared to the rational, volitional, spiritual aspects of being persons. Race is profoundly non-essential to personhood.

Biblical Response to Racism

3. Sin dishonors God and depraves humanity.

Sin's irony is that it is the reason we are hurtful to each other *and* it is one of the reasons we should not hurt each other. We are all equal because we are all sinful. We're all as bad as each other and equally worthy of disrespect.

Biblical Response to Racism

4. Jesus is the example of perfect humanity. He never treated anyone disrespectfully. He was a light to all nations. The gospels purposely portray him as reaching out to Jews, Samaritans, Greeks, and Romans. His early childhood was impacted by magi “from the East” and a stay in Egypt.

Biblical Response to Racism

5. Jesus is the revelation of sacrificial love. Jesus died to show us how to love each other. Jesus is the *universal* savior. Christ died to buy people of every color to form a single church family.

Biblical Response to Racism

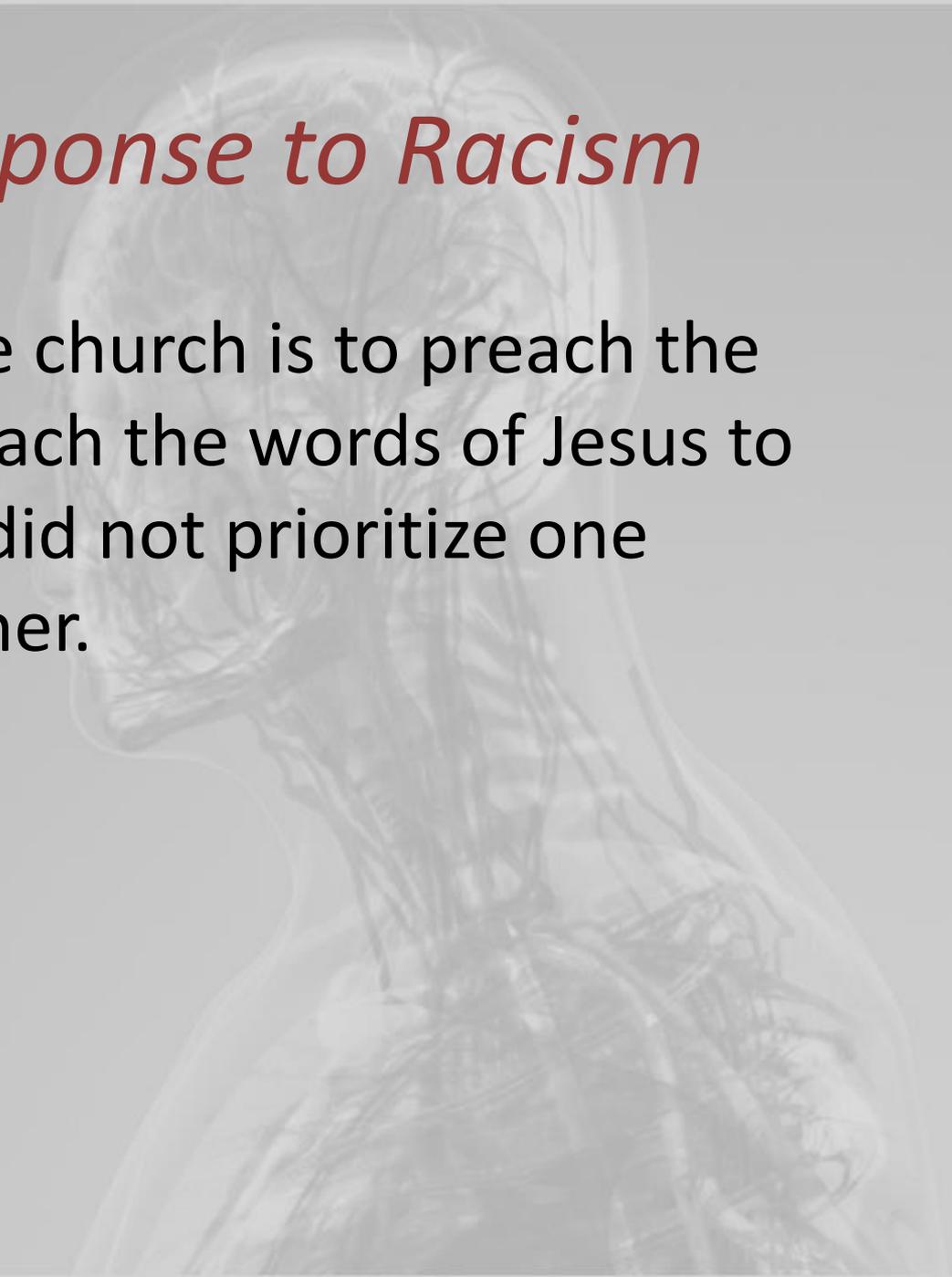
6. Jesus is the ground of our justification by faith alone. Jesus offers the one righteousness that will commend any human being to God. There is one way to get united to Jesus and it has nothing to do with race and everything to do with faith.

Biblical Response to Racism

7. The Holy Spirit was poured out on all races through the book of Acts. The charting of the expansion of the gospel/Holy Spirit to every people is the outline of book.

Biblical Response to Racism

8. The mission of the church is to preach the good news and teach the words of Jesus to all nations. Jesus did not prioritize one people over another.



Biblical Response to Racism

9. The church today should both reflect racial diversity and pursue racial harmony. Racial division has no place in the Body of Christ. Racist thoughts have no place in the mind of a “Christ one.”

Biblical Response to Racism

10. In the end times all peoples will be gathered together to worship one God. For no people group will this be someone else's God. Every tribe and tongue will say, "He is *our* God."

Encouragement

1. Celebrate the diversity of cultures within God's creation. Each culture is warped by sin, but each also maintains an element of God's design.
2. Seek to understand the challenges of those that are different than you (especially minorities).
3. Think biblically first, second, and third. Be honest with yourself regarding racial thought tendencies.
4. Love people the way that Christ did.

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