

I. Modern and Historical Conceptualizations of Race

Current Definitions: Modern academic and scientific institutions define race as a tool for human classification. Key points include:

- **Encyclopedia Britannica:** Identifies race as the idea that humans are divided into distinct groups based on inherited physical and behavioral differences.
- **National Human Genome Research Institute:** Frames race as a "social construct" and a "hierarchical human-grouping system" designed to distinguish and marginalize certain groups.
- **Common Identifiers:** Groups are typically classified by skin color, hair texture, eye shape, facial features, and body type.

The Evolution of Racial Classification

The document identifies several key figures who developed the modern racial framework:

Figure	Contribution
François Bernier (1620–1688)	A French physician who divided humanity into five specific types in <i>A New Division of The Earth</i> , using traits like "blackness" and "thick lips" to justify Africans as a distinct type.
Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778)	A Swedish biologist who was among the first to link "moral nature" and conduct to race. He categorized Europeans as "inventive" and "governed by laws," while describing Africans as "lazy," "careless," and "governed by will."
Johann Friedrich Blumenbach (1752–1840)	An anthropologist who classified humans into five groups (Caucasian, Ethiopian, Mongolian, Malayan, and American) based on skull size and structure. He claimed Caucasians were the "most beautiful" and the original type from which others deviated.
Charles Darwin (1809–1882)	Proposed that all life descended from a common ancestor, providing the macroevolutionary foundation that has since influenced theological views on race.

II. A Biblical Examination of "Race"

Linguistic Foundations: The Bible uses specific terms to discuss lineage and offspring, which are often mistranslated or misunderstood in a modern context:

- **Hebrew (*zera*):** Meaning "seed," it appears 229 times in the Hebrew Scriptures (59 times in Genesis). It refers to the germination of vegetation, human offspring, or descendants.
- **Greek (*genos*):** Meaning "offspring," "family," or "kin." It occurs 20 times in the Greek Scriptures and refers to relatives from the same tribe or nation. The document notes that in passages like 1 Peter 2:9, *genos* should be understood as "descendants" in a physical sense rather than "race" in the modern biological sense.

The Absence of External Features in Scripture: A thorough review of the biblical narrative reveals that external physical features—the hallmarks of modern racial classification—are notably absent from God's descriptions of humanity:

- **Creation (Genesis 1:26-27):** Humanity is created in the "image of God," with no mention of skin color, hair texture, or eye shape.
- **The Flood (Genesis 6:5-8):** God's favor toward Noah and the judgment of the wicked had no "racial" components.
- **The Table of Nations (Genesis 10):** The descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth are categorized by their "languages, lands, and nations," not by physical features.
- **The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11):** Division was a result of God confusing human **language**. The document suggests that while physical variations likely existed, it was language, not appearance, that caused the migration and establishment of various nations.
- **One Ancestor (Acts 17:24-26):** Scripture asserts that God "made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth."

III. The Conflict of Worldviews

The Macroevolutionary Perspective in Theology

The document argues that the "problem" arises when theology adopts a macroevolutionary view of race. This view treats racial differences as biological or genetic markers of identity rather than superficial variations.

Negative Consequences of this Perspective:

1. **Promotion of Superiority:** It fuels ideologies like "Black Power" or "White Power," which the document views as "two sides of the same coin."
2. **Improper Division:** It separates human beings based on "superfluous and superficial qualities."
3. **Behavioral Association:** It risks the "unnatural and antibiblical" conclusion that conduct and philosophy are genetically attached to skin color.
4. **Hostility:** It fosters hostility by causing people to focus on external features as the source of social problems.

Critique of Voluntary Segregation

The analysis rebuts the argument that "racial" separation in churches is "normal and healthy." A provided example of macroevolutionary thought within the church suggests that people naturally prefer to worship with those who are "like them." However, the document counters that:

- Racial separation is **unnatural and antibiblical** (citing Galatians 3:28).

- Claims that race is a stronger predictor of political or moral behavior than shared faith are rooted in macroevolutionary philosophy, not Scripture.

IV. Conclusion: The One-Race Reality

The synthesis of the source context leads to a singular conclusion: **Biblically, there is only one race—the human race.**

- **Creativity of God:** External distinctions (skin color, eye shape, etc.) are not markers of different groups but evidence of God's creativity within the human species.
- **Social Construct:** Race, as defined by macroevolutionary thought, is a social construct created from "pure conjecture and personal preferences" and the "tradition of men."
- **Exhortation:** Following the counsel in Colossians 2:1-8, believers are urged not to be taken captive by "philosophy and empty deception" according to the principles of the world, but to remain established in their faith in Christ, in whom all wisdom is hidden.

Critical Takeaways:

- **Scientific and Social Definitions:** Modern definitions describe race as a hierarchical grouping system or a social construct used to distinguish and marginalize populations based on skin color, eye shape, and other physical characteristics.
- **Historical Origins:** The classification of humans into "races" was formalized by 17th- and 18th-century thinkers who began associating external traits with moral conduct and intellectual capacity.
- **Biblical Unity:** From a biblical perspective, there is only one race: the human race. Scriptural accounts of creation (Genesis), the post-flood world (Table of Nations), and the scattering at Babel emphasize linguistic and geographic division rather than physical or "racial" categorization.
- **The Problem of Macroevolutionary Theology:** Adopting a macroevolutionary view of race leads to the improper division of humanity, the promotion of superiority/inferiority, and the antibiblical association of behavior with skin color.