

United!

Dr. Allen Holmes

May 24, 2015

80% of our church is white, and they need to understand that is crucial if we are going to improve race relationships.

Have you heard of The Inferiority Myth?

The Inferiority Myth is the belief that black people are naturally inferior to white people. This Myth is the root of the racial problem in the black and white community. Most in the black community are trying to overcome this lie. Most in the white community believe it and don't even know it.

Where do we learn this myth?

1. **Sociology:** Slave owners brought lighter skinned slaves into the house
2. **Science:** Charles Darwin, in this second book, *Descent of Man*, said we evolved from Apes and some of us were more apelike than others. If you had dark skin you were less evolved so white people were more advanced.
3. **Education:** Black people were written out of history which is why we have and need black history month. White people were the brains behind western culture, blacks came from primitive Africa. We were not taught about the great civilizations in African history.
4. **Family:** Innocent white children are often taught by their parents that blacks are inferior.
5. **Church:** The curse of Ham. In Genesis 9, Noah got drunk and his son Ham found him drunk and naked and dishonored him. When Noah sobered up he cursed Ham and his children and says Ham's children will be slaves to his brothers. For years the church taught that black people were the sons of Ham, slaves, and should accept that. In fact *The Old Scofield Reference Bible*, for years one of the most popular Bibles in circulation, explained that being black was the curse of Ham, God's judgement.
6. **Media:** The highest grossing film in the silent film era was, "The Birth of a Nation". Unashamedly endorsed white supremacy portraying the founders of the KKK as heroes rather than the monsters they were and are. **The media likes for us to be divided because it keeps them in business.**

The inferiority myth still has a devastating impact on the black community.

In the now famous study, "**Racial Identification and Preference in Negro Children Study**" children were shown different colors and shades of dolls and then asked the questions, "which doll is the nice doll?" or "Which doll is the bad doll?" Children unanimously identified the white dolls as good and the black dolls as bad.

We have not made a big enough deal out of this. If white and black people continue to believe this myth consciously or subconsciously we will never have unity.

Everyone lives according to who they believe they are. If we believe we are the children of God, made in his image, with honor and dignity then we are much more likely to live like it.

Adam and Eve were not white. In the Bible many of the people were black:

- Noah's son Ham had four sons who became the fathers of Ethiopia, Egypt, Libya, and the Canaanites. All black nations.
- Moses was married to a black woman (Numbers 12) from Africa
- Caleb was black
- Jethro was black
- Rahab, David's grandmother was black.
- Bathsheba, David's wife and Solomon's mom was black.
- Solomon's wife (Song and Songs) was black

Early church father- Augustine was black, he lived in Northern Africa

What do we do about all this?

- We can continue to build an ethnically diverse church where everyone feels welcome because the gospel destroys the Inferiority Myth.
- We can treat everyone the way God has treated us, we can reach down to make them great.

Submission to God's kingdom opens the door to the flow of God's supernatural provision, protection, wisdom, and power to flow into our lives.

How do we overcome racism?

1. We must destroy the Inferiority Myth through a Biblical understanding of humanity and identity.

- Adam and Eve- Children of God
- God created us in unity and in the end we are united
- There are two groups of people in the world
- Our entrance into God's family is based on Christ's redeeming work
- In Christ we are brothers and can live in peace.
- We must be an ethnically diverse church where every ethnic group feels honored, embraced, and empowered.
- We must ask God to search our hearts. We must renounce the lie our inferiority.

2. We can work together to see God's Kingdom Vision established. There is power in unity! Acts 2

Ephesians 2:11-22

Romans 16:17, 1 Corinthians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 4:3, Acts 2:4, Acts 17:26

Dr. Martin Luther King said, "We must all learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools."

Benefits of oneness:

1. Synergy- Genesis 11
2. Glorifies God- John 17:20-23
3. Power- Psalm 133