

The Cross and Racism



Why Do We Still Have Racial Conflict?

- **Why the death and violence in Charlottesville, Virginia?**
- **Why are there a disproportionate number of blacks in prison in the US?**
- **Why are there a disproportionate number of First Nations people in prisons in Canada?**
- **Is the problem a systemic problem or a personal responsibility problem or an inability to take personal responsibility because of past systemic problems?**
- **As Followers of Jesus, what are to be our values and responses?**

Defining Racism

- **“Racism is an explicit or implicit belief or practice that qualitatively distinguishes or values one race over other races.”**
- **Martin Luther King said, “he who passively accepts evil is as much involved in it as he who helps to perpetrate it. He who accepts evil without protesting against it is really cooperating with it.”**
- **Of the American situation, Shelby Steele says - “Blacks can have no real power without taking responsibility for their own educational and economic development. Whites can have no racial innocence without earning it by eradicating discrimination and helping the disadvantaged to develop.”**

How Is The Cross The Symbol Of Racism?

- **There are evangelicals today who believe people of color are a lesser race.**
- **Some believe the “mark on Cain” was to make him colored. Gen.4:15**
- **Gen.6:4-5 - That the offspring of the Nephilim were of Satan and these were the black people and that some survived the flood.**
- **That all the people on the ark were white therefore the black people must have been with the animals - Gen.7**
- **The curse of Ham (Gen.9:20-27) was to make him black**

How Is The Bible Used To Defend Racism?

- **Because Abraham had slaves, it must be ok**
- **Because Paul returned a slave to his master**
- **Because no where does the Bible condemn slavery**
- **Because Jesus never spoke against it**
- **Because the Bible records the sinful activities of men, only means that it is an accurate record of what happened, not that all these activities were sanctioned by God**
- **Satan is called the god of this world and that he has blinded the minds of the unbelievers – 2Cor.4:4 Satan's titles are liar, deceiver and destroyer. Racism is a work of Satan!**

How Do We Speak Against Racism?

- **Most of the Slavery in the Bible is Economic slavery**
- **Ethnic Slavery, Egyptians enslaving Hebrews, was fear and military control based, not reflecting God's values**
- **When the Apostle Paul sends the runaway slave back to Philemon, he sends him back “¹⁶ no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.”**
- **Paul worked within the laws of the land but encouraged the followers of Jesus to look at “slaves” in a different way**

How Do We Speak Against Racism?

- **1Cor.7:21-24** - Paul also encouraged slaves to view themselves as slaves of Christ, but take freedom if offered
- **Jesus teaching was that we are to care for the poor, particularly the poor followers of Jesus, so that they are not sold into slavery. Matt.6:1-4; 7:12**
- **The Bible clearly shows all people, regardless of color are of equal value before God and we are to unconditionally love and accept.**
- **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. PSALM 67:4**
- **Many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. MATTHEW 8:11–12**

Reflecting The Character of Jesus Against Racism

- Vinay Samuel, director of the Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life, said, “The most serious thing [concerning the credibility of our global witness] is the image around the world that evangelicals are soft on racial injustice. . . . One sign and wonder, biblically speaking, that alone can prove the power of the gospel is that of reconciliation. . . . Other groups cannot duplicate the miracle of black and white together, of racial injustice being swept away by the power of the gospel. . . . Our credibility is at stake.”

Reflecting The Character of Jesus Against Racism

- **The Gospel and Satan – Jesus is the only power to which Satan gives way. Racism is a tool of Satan to destroy people**
- **The Gospel and Guilt – Guilt is a hammer used by Satan to destroy. Conviction is of the Holy Spirit to bring repentance, forgiveness and restoration**
- **The Gospel and Pride – God hates pride. “The Lord of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low. . . . And the haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the lofty pride of men shall be brought low, and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day” (Isa. 2:12, 17). White Pride, Black Pride, prefix christians**

Reflecting The Character of Jesus Against Racism

- **Pride is a condition of the heart that does not submit to God. It does not delight in God having absolute power and authority. It presumes to rebel against God or negotiate with God. Therefore, it can be secular or religious.**
- **The gospel of Jesus breaks the power of pride by revealing the magnitude and the ugliness and the deadliness of it, even as it provides deliverance from it. The gospel makes plain that I am so hopelessly sinful and my debt before God was so huge that my salvation required the death of the Son of God in my place. This is devastating to the human ego.**

Reflecting The Character of Jesus Against Racism?

- **The Gospel of Jesus is the answer to the problems of racism**
- **The Gospel creates new people – 2Cor.5:17 - All things have become new, the old is passed away, new things have come**
- **The Gospel is that Jesus came to absorb the wrath of God so we wouldn't have to, and to begin a process of restoring that which was lost through sin.**
- **Relationship with God- Peace with God**
- **Relationship with Others – Peace with People**
- **Peace in my heart – a heart and mind overflowing with God's Joy and Peace**