

The St. Peter Option: To Everyone an Answer Living as Exiles in a Foreign Land

9 Racism VS. Original Sin and the Tower of Babel

Introduction:

Christians deplore and reject racism of every kind. Christianity does not believe that there are many races. We believe that there is only one race. We believe that all human beings descended from the one man Adam and are redeemed by the Second Adam, our Lord Jesus Christ, who embraced all of humanity in His incarnation, and that He redeemed all of humanity in His once and for all sacrifice upon the cross. Our belief in the sanctity of humanity is based upon the two-fold truth that mankind was created in the image and likeness of the Triune God of love, and that all humanity was redeemed from sin by Christ's death upon the cross.

- These basic assertions about one humanity (rather than race) redeemed by the incarnation and atonement of Christ are why the Church engages in mission work to all the nations of the earth without discrimination, favoritism, or partiality.
- The church has her own culture that flows from the Gospel of God's universal love for mankind in Christ. (We reject the false premise that the objective of the Church's mission work is to subjugate people).
- The beauty of the Church's liturgy and hymnody is that it is NOT culturally bound but makes use of every contribution in hymnody and liturgical practice that faithfully upholds the Gospel of God's grace in Christ.
- The Church, generally speaking, resonates and affirms Martin Luther King Jr.'s assertion in his "I Have a Dream" speech: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."
- Traditional racism is compatible with evolutionary theory, but NOT historic Biblical Christianity. I would argue that discrimination based on "survival of the fittest" under evolutionary theory is actually "proper" according to the theory of evolution.
- This study will focus on what might be called "traditional racism" rather than contemporary "Critical Race Theory" and "Woke Ideology"

What is racism?

Racism is discrimination against people based upon the belief that there are different races of human beings and that certain human beings, based upon skin color or ethnic origin, are inferior to others. (Not all "racism" is white against black. For example, there is "tribal discrimination" within many countries in Africa).

Is there or has there been racism among Christians within the Church?

Unfortunately, yes! But its origins are not in Scripture, Christian doctrine, or the Gospel of Jesus Christ; rather, its origins are in the problem of sin which has had its negative impact upon individual Christians and the Church. So, the real problem is SIN, which manifests itself in racist discrimination and all kinds of other sinful behavior.

Original Sin According to the Scriptures:

What is the origin of humanity and original sin?

The passages below trace the origins of humanity and humanity's fall into sin to one man, Adam. The historical fact of Adam's creation, fall, and the descent of humanity from him finds its remedy and salvation from sin in the historical incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection of the second Adam, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God. **Acts 17:25b-26; Romans 5:12, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:22**

Sin is the common corruption of all mankind:

Psalm 51:5 - "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me."

Genesis 6:5-6 - "The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually (all day). And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart."

- The Lord was grieved because man had not simply rebelled against God, but because his rebellion had utterly offended God's nature of self-giving love and turned man into an ego-centric animal who only loves himself and cares about no one else.
- This ego-centricity is the origin of racism and, indeed, all sin.

What has the fall into sin done to humanity?

A Look at the Fall itself and its consequences: Genesis 3:1-13

- Rebellion against the God of love creates an ego-centric nature in the image of the Serpent.
- Adam sought to "preserve himself" at all costs
- Covetous desire tramples upon the rights and dignity of others

Jesus' commentary on the human condition since the fall: Mark 7:21

- Defining each of these things Jesus' mentions as evil reinforces the understanding that the unbelief of sin is rooted in a deep-seated self-centeredness and self-preservation at the expense and subjugation of others.
- Notice the definition of evil by Jesus articulates sin on the basis of the Ten Commandments

The example of original sin's influence in David's fall into adultery with Bathsheba: 2 Samuel 11

- He preys upon the beautiful, yet vulnerable wife of a Hittite.
- All his sin flowed from his self-centered covetous desire.
- His conspiracy involved an elaborate plan of self-justification.

The Curse of the Tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9

God not only cursed the creation on account of man's sin (the Curse of the Fall), but He also cursed humanity's self-centeredness at the Tower of Babel. Man, who had been singularly united against the Triune God, is now subjugated to God's curse that turns man in upon himself, separating him into language and people groups, whereby the futility of sinful partiality and prejudice could be manifest for what it is: sin that flows from separation from the God and ends in destruction. Racism leads to death and destruction.

- Their sin at the Tower of Babel was a supreme act of human idolatry: Man (collectively) is God to the rejection of the true God.
- They were practicing a form of totalitarian fascism believing the same anti-Trinitarian man-centered Creed. (We see this in the collective, widespread opposition of Christianity. Coexist has become a kind of mantra of collective humanity against the truth of who we were created to be in Christ).
- This "Curse of the Tower of Babel" is the origin of all language groups, nations, ethnicity, and culture (which in and of itself is not evil), and its corresponding partiality and prejudice where one group believes itself superior to others and exalts itself over others.

Pentecost: The division of the Fall and the Tower of Babel is reversed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hymn— "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall" LSB 562