

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 3-14-10 AM NOTES
"A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW OF RACE"
EPHESIANS 2:11-22
#9 in Series, "A Biblical Worldview"

Racism —“The deeply held belief that one’s ethnicity or cultural heritage justifies a sense of superiority over those of other backgrounds, resulting in discrimination, segregation, or unjust treatment toward them.”

—Mark Tatlock

Ephesians 2:16 (ESV) “and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”

I. The Origin of People Groups

Genesis 3:20 (NKJV) “And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”

II. The Equality of People Groups

Acts 17:26 (NKJV) “And He has made from **one blood** every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.”

Acts 10:34-35 (NKJV) ³⁴ Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. ³⁵ But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’”

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NKJV) “Do not be unequally yoked together with **unbelievers**. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

III. The Excuses for Racism

A. Evolution

“... some of the wildest tribes in southern Asia and eastern Africa have no trace whatsoever of the first foundations of all human civilization, of family life, and marriage. They live together in herds, like apes, generally climbing on trees and eating fruits; they do not know of fire, and use stones and clubs as weapons, just like the higher apes...At the lowest stage of human mental development are the Australians, some tribes of the Polynesians, and the Bushmen, Hottentots, and some of the Negro tribes.”

—Ernst Haeckel

B. The “Curse on Ham”

Genesis 9:25 (NKJV) “Then he said: ‘Cursed *be* Canaan; a servant of servants he shall be to his brethren.’”

IV. The Road to Reconciliation

“Are our churches thermometers registering the racial attitudes and actions of the world; or are they thermostats raising the warmth of commitment to racial understanding and love and demonstrable harmony?”

—John Piper

A. Repent of Racism

B. For Those Who Have Been the Recipient of Racism, Forgive

C. Confront Racism Among Believers

Galatians 2:13-14 (NKJV) “¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy. ¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before *them* all, ‘If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?’”

D. Don’t Confuse the Attempts of Secularists to Elevate Faith Systems or Sins to the Same Status as Racial Issues

E. Pray That People From Minority Ethnic Groups Would Feel Welcome in Our Church

Revelation 5:9-10 (NKJV) “⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of **every tribe and tongue and people and nation**, ¹⁰ and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.’”