

## RACE AND THE GOSPEL

What does the Bible say about RACE?

Why does the subject keep coming up?

How many races are there?

What are the present issues surrounding race in this country and even worldwide?

If not Christians, who then is qualified to enter into such discussions that affect us all?

We cannot expect to reach a place of peace on the issue of RACE apart from the GOSPEL!

Genesis 12:1-3

“Now the LORD had said to Abram: “Get out of your country, From your family And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.””

Genesis 12:1-3 NKJV

Genesis 22:15-18

“Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: “By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not

withheld your son, your only son — blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.””  
Genesis 22:15-18 NKJV

## WE CANNOT EXPECT TO REACH A PLACE OF PEACE APART FROM THE GOSPEL!

A. Historically, the Gospel has been misused by persons to affirm racism. It nonetheless remains the only power or force holding any potential for the reconciliation of mankind to God and to ONE ANOTHER.

B. Historically, the church has been complicit in perpetuating false narratives that contributed to racism and racist policies amidst what are referred to as systemic racism.

C. There will be no corporate reconciliation apart from OUR personal reconciliation to God.

## RECOMMENDED READING:

- A. The Color of Compromise by Jemar Tisby
- B. White Rage by Carol Anderson
- C. White Fragility by Robin Deangelo
- D. Jesus And The Disinherited by Howard Thurman

## SO, WHAT DOES THE BIBLE PROVIDE ON THE ISSUE OF RACE???

Ephesians 2:14-22

“For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us. So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:14-22 NLT

Cool Hand Luke—(Paul Newman) “We have a failure to communicate”

The result is a relationship problem—with one another  
AND with God!

The GOSPEL provides the only vision of the future that  
leads to human flourishing (Matt Chandler)

Ephesians 4:1-4

“Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future.”

Ephesians 4:1-4 NLT

Historically, we have sought to claim Christianity as a guide, only to do so with personal limitations. The question remains this: HOW FAR ARE YOU WILLING TO GO WITH GOD?

Matthew 22:37-40

“Jesus replied, “‘You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.””

Matthew 22:37-40 NLT

## The 59 “One Another Sayings” of the New Testament

### Confession and Repentance—Pain of the Gospel

- A. Acknowledgement of past wrongs
- B. Turning away from past wrongs and embracing THE new direction (thinking and behavior)

### OUR INHERITANCE

- A. Peace with God (Vertical)
- B. Peace with each other (Horizontal)
- C. One Body
- D. Devotion to One Another