

"Made in the Image of God"
Ephesians 2:11-21

I. Biblical principles for race relations:

1. Humanity was created in the image of God and therefore EVERY human is of infinite worth

Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

2. All human beings are a single family and have a common origin

Acts 17:26, "And He made from man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth"

3. Jesus Christ died for the redemption of EVERY person regardless of race or nationality. (Ephesians 2:11-21)

(vs. 12) "[Gentiles] remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world."

(vs. 13) – "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."

(vs. 14-15) – "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,"

(vs. 16) "and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility."

(vs. 19) – “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,”

4. Racism and prejudice are sins and are not in step with the Gospel

(Galatians 2:14) "But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel..."

II. Practical steps to overcome racism

1. Remove passivity...be intentional

If our vertical reconciliation to God required intentionality, then our horizontal reconciliation necessitates the same intentionality.

2. Recognize your sin of prejudice

3. Repent of your sin

4. Repair any damage

5. Raise your racial IQ

a) Education on races and cultures

b) Exposure to people of other races

John 4:3, “He left Judea and departed again for Galilee.”

John 4:4, “And he had to pass through Samaria”

***God’s means of healing racism in our hearts is through shared experiences with the very people we are prejudiced against.
(Albert Tate)***

6. Remember God's promise about the future

Revelation 7:9-10, "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"