

• JANUARY 18 •

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: RACISM

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, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place."

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

*Ephesians 2:11-12, "Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-
12 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.*

*Ephesians 2:13-16, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility
15 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,
16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility."*

*Ephesians 2:17-19, "And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.
18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.
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,"*

Galatians 3:27-28, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

4. Prejudice is a sin and is not in step with the Gospel

(Galatians 2:11–14) "But when Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

II. Overcoming 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

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!"