

## Haters...Can Love

Last week we learned or reminded ourselves that God is love. God is Love. It is His essence. And we learned that if we truly have His Spirit in us, we must love others. Not because we choose to but because it is now our essence. We can't help it and we can't stop it. We may hate others for a while, but we can't love Jesus....Have His Spirit...and hold on to hate for anyone that He created. If you missed that sermon last week I strongly encourage you to go to our website and check it out.

I have been watching our world....specifically America...try to learn the lesson that God is trying to teach us. It seems to me that God wants us to deal with our racism issue....or rip up our nation trying anyway. We apparently did not learn the lesson of the Civil War and it seems we are heading back to similar times.

So I thought it might be helpful for us to focus another week on this lesson. Jonah had to have a gastric emptying study and he still took years to finally clean out the racism in his heart.

I do not remember a day of my life when I was not dealing with the issue of race. It is like a plague in our culture that you wonder why we can't get over it. It is far more damaging than Covid 19.

When I was 8 years old...I began noticing something unusual at school. National Guard people and Dogs at the high school. All of my friends in the neighborhood were all moving away at the same time. I was too young to understand white flight, but I remember using all the for sale signs as hurdles as I ran home from school and all the parents yelling at each other after school.

Soon after my second grade year, my soon to be best friend moved in next door. He was great. His dad was a prominent Psychiatrist...His mom would eventually become the superintendent of Schools in Dallas.

Eric and I did everything together that summer. We thought it was funny that our houses were mirror images of each other and so were we.

One day we were playing basketball in our driveway. Just Eric and I. But we wanted to play like we had seen the big kids play, so we played shirt and skins.

Dumb I guess since there were just two of us....perhaps more ridiculous since Eric was Black and I was White.

Our parents were laughing at us and we had no idea why. I wish I could have lived my whole life that way.

I had no idea what that meant. Never thought about it and never even considered it until school started in third grade. Every day after school I got beat up. My white friends whose house had not yet sold beat me up for having a black friend. The black kids beat me up for trying to be act like I belonged with them. I learned to fight and run at a young age. By sixth grade I had learned that skin color mattered to some people. But from that year on, it was I, the long white kid it seemed in the minority at school and everywhere else.

I had no idea what Eric was going through. Their house was attacked. They received threatening calls. He never really spoke about it, but his mom kept both of us on a short leash.

When I was 12 or so, it seemed that I had almost no friends. I begged my parents to move. I told my Dad that I either needed to become black or live somewhere else.

He took me to see a movie. To Kill a Mockingbird. There was a scene in that movie when Atticus enters the courtroom and all the black women and men in the balcony stand and silently show respect for him. **IMAGE 1** My dad then told me a story about my Grandfather....a superintendent of schools in Arkansas....who commanded that kind of respect among the black community because he demanded against all southern norms that all children, black and white get the same education...and play on the same playground. It almost got him killed.

My Dad told me that we come from a family that would never leave our neighbors. We weren't leaving and God had placed us there.....true friends would come he said. Not much changed and my white flight was to the golf course where I essentially lived every day from age 12 to 17.

In 9th Grade, I had to do a presentation about someone in my family. I chose my Great, Great, Grandfather William who fought for the Arkansas Third Division at Gettysburg and many other battles. When I was finished you could have heard a pin drop.

Then someone in the back said....Your Great Great Grandfather probably beat mine...probably raped my Great Great Grandmother.....

I went to a magnet High School in order to get away. When I was 16, I was run off the road by a crazy white dude carrying a gun who hated that I was driving home from school with my black friend. No one believed me until later that night when he was arrested for assault and attempted murder on a black man at a bar

My church encouraged us to invite our friends to youth group....until I did. Then I learned that those were not the kind of friends they would welcome at church. I grew up singing Jesus loves the little children.....not realizing that it was lie.

They didn't love my friends....claimed they love God...and I knew at that point I was done with church. My entire life had been about hypocrites. I left the church but not Jesus at age 18 and never came back until age 35.

Southern White Men my age never seem to fit in. I seemed to struggle most of my young adult life with where I was from and what my ancestors had done. I love the South and always have, but I am ashamed of what my relatives have done. I can't go back and change it and attempts at this point to do so seem patronizing and anemic. I have lived with the Southern White stereotype my whole life and perhaps never as often as today. Fortunately, God has taught me to have an audience of One and to not seek the approval of man.

I remember a song by Brad Paisley's called "Accidental Racist" "I am proud of where I am from but not all that we have done Its not like you and me can rewrite history. Our generation didn't start this nation Paying for mistakes some folks made long before we came Caught somewhere between Southern Pride and Southern Blame The relationship between the Mason Dixon needs some fixin I just want to make things right.

Our culture is as divided today as it has ever been.. The news is full of the tension. Lives matter....because they matter to God. All lives....poor people, drug addicted people, those in prison, those in mansions, those who are very educated and those who are not. Those who are arrogant...those who are judgmental...Those who Love Jesus...those who do not. Those who God chose to make black and those God chose to make white. And everyone of person of the human race.

Do you wonder what God thinks about all of this? How did the Human Race get lost in Racism? Racial Discrimination has a long and sad history, but the Bible consistently views it a contrary to God's Will. The Entire Human Race descended from Adam and Eve.....Eve is called the Mother of All Living. All Humans are created in the image of God.

Acts 17:26–27 (ESV) — 26 And he made from one 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, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

God is clear...there is only one race of human beings.

Human Genetic Studies confirm this The Human Genome Project verified that the human genome sequence in all humans is almost the same and we all share 99.8% of the same DNA. In fact, they noticed that while there may be variations in skin color and hair color in individuals, there are no consistent patterns that occur to distinguish one race from another.

So you may be wondering....Why then do people with different racial characteristics originate in different regions of the world? At some point as people were driven across the world separated by languages, they became geographically isolated in regions. As they began to intermarry, certain alleles or genes became more prevalent in that group of geographically isolated people. People isolated in Europe began to look more like each other than those isolated in Africa, or Asia.

Are you ready for the truth? I can guarantee you, based on the Bible and genetic studies that Adam and Eve.....wait for it....were not white. Adam and Eve Picture All of those images of White Adam and Eve holding the Apple....are just that...someone's image.

Modern Genetic Studies show that when a lighter-skinned person has a child with a darker skinned person, none of their children will have skin darker than the darkest parent. That means that Adam and Eve were not white, in fact, they were the darkest humans ever on earth and most likely their children would have had different skin colors. In addition, the same would have been true for Noah and his family.

Genetic Lesson Humans carry 2 genes for skin color. They carry a combination of a Black Gene and a White Gene. These genes only impact skin color by determining the amount of melanin in skin cells. Each Gene has a dominant and Recessive form and are distinguished as Aa or Bb. AAbb produces someone who is considered black, aabb produces someone who is considered white. AaBb would have produced all variations in between.

So what about Adam and Eve and Noah and His wife? **Image 2** Adam and Eve were AaBb and thus not white nor black.. And not one or the other. Without boring you too far. Since Eve was formed from Adam's Rib she likely had the same DNA for skin color- in that sense she was a clone. If they were AAbb- we would all be black. If they were aabb- we would all be white. So they were AaBb.

What about Noah? Noah and his wife could have been AaBb or one could have been white and the other black.. Their children, like Adam and Eve's would have been different colors. So the Ark was fully integrated.

The Bible is clear that there is unity in the design of the human race.

There are many instances of marriages between different ethnicities (we would call races) and they are normal and good. Joseph who was Semitic (a Descendant of Abraham) Asenath the daughter of an Egyptian priest. From this marriage came 2 of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Moses who was Semitic married a Cushite Woman- An African Woman from the area of Sudan and Ethiopia. When Miriam and Aaron criticized this marriage God punished them. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus mentions Rahab who was a Canaanite and Ruth who was a Moabite.

It is important to note that there were prohibitions for God's people regarding marriage. The prophet Ezra calls the Jewish people in Ezra 9 & 10 to repent for marrying outside the faith of God's Holy Nation. The exiles had returned to Judah and married people of other faiths. Note that the sin was not marrying other races, the sin was marrying those who did not share their same faith in God.

**Deuteronomy 7:1-4 (ESV) — 1 “When the LORD your God brings you into the land that you are entering to take possession of it, and clears away many nations before you, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, seven nations more numerous and mightier than you, .....3 You shall not intermarry with them, giving your daughters to their sons or taking their daughters for your sons, 4 for they would turn away your sons from following me, to serve other gods. Then the anger of the LORD would be kindled against you, and he would destroy you quickly.**

Note the reason....for they would turn away from following me and serve other God's. Throughout the Bible God warns us to not marry outside the FAITH. We are not instructed to marry outside our race because we are all the same- the human race.

From the beginning of the Bible to the end, God directs His Children to not marry anyone from another Faith. That is why the Bible is crystal clear that Disciples of Jesus are not to marry non-believers. Doing so kindles the anger of the Lord because you will turn away from following Him.

Take home point- There is only one race- The Human Race- God loves them all and we should too. Marry any human but not any faith.

But what about the New Testament? What did Jesus teach about racism?

In Jesus' Day it was not White and Black but rather Jewish and Samaritan. And after the Babylonians moved many of the Israelites out they then moved other conquered people groups in. What happened then was that during the 70 years that the captivity lasted those Israelites that were left behind intermarried with these new people groups that were brought in. The result was a mixed blood race that was part Jew and part Gentile.

To make matters worse this race of half-breeds also practiced a blended form of the Jewish religion. They only accepted the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible that were written by Moses) as scripture. And then they blended in elements of the pagan religions from these other people groups.

This form of Judaism was highly offensive to true Jews. And so when the Jews returned from exile they drove these half-breeds out of Jerusalem and Judea. They moved north into Samaria and there you have the Samaritans.

**Map** This posed a problem then if you wished to travel from Judea to Galilee or vice versa because Samaria was in between them. So devout Jews would go out of their way and cross the Jordan River and then travel north where they would then cross the Jordan River again to enter Galilee.

Clearly the Jews despised the Samaritans because of the deep-seated prejudices that they held onto. But then Jesus comes along and in today's passage he begins to shatter the stereotypes the Jews had against the Samaritans.

John 4:1–4 (ESV)

1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John 2 (although Jesus himself did not baptize, but only his disciples), 3 he left Judea and departed again for Galilee. 4 And he had to pass through Samaria.

Do you remember the map....Did Jesus have to pass through Samaria? Over nine times in the book of John Jesus emphasizes that he only did what God told him to do. Jesus had to go because the Father told Him to.

First Point to Overcome Racism **YOU MUST GO OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE**

In order to do that he "had to go through Samaria." He had to leave his comfort zone. It would have been much more comfortable to stick to the more familiar route. It would have been much easier to only associate with those who were like him. He already had enough problems with the Jews without intentionally going out of his way to hang out with outcasts.

John 4:4–8 (ESV) — 4 And he had to pass through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. 7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.)

As if it wasn't bad enough going through Samaria, we then learn that Jesus actually interacted with the Samaritans on his way through. I mean if he thought he had to cut through Samaria in order to get to Galilee quickly at least he could have avoided the people. Look straight ahead and don't make eye contact and whatever you do don't speak to them. Not Jesus.

**Jesus teaches us the second point to overcome Racism YOU MUST GO BEYOND YOUR SOCIAL CIRCLE**

The Jews did not associate with the Samaritans. They didn't hang out together. They didn't talk to each other. They didn't get along. They traveled in completely different social circles. So not only does Jesus go outside his comfort zone (Samaria), but he also goes beyond his social circle (the Samaritans).

If you think things are bad now they are about to get even worse. He doesn't just interact with any old Samaritan, but with a Samaritan woman. The Jewish rabbis of Jesus' day would not even teach women. And yet here is Jesus reaching out to a Samaritan woman.

And when it seemed that things couldn't get any worse, they did. Not only was this person a Samaritan and a woman, but she was also an immoral woman. She had been married five times and she wasn't married to the man she was now living with (4:18). So this is the picture: Jesus is hanging out at a well all alone with an adulterous Samaritan woman. She's got three strikes against her, so to speak, and she should be called out.

It would have been unusual for a woman to go to the well to draw water in the heat of the day. Usually they went to the well in the evening when it had cooled off. That she was there at noon indicates that she was probably trying to avoid the other women because they did not accept her because of her immorality. Are you starting to get the picture? This woman was an outcast among outcasts! If there was anyone on the face of planet earth that Jesus should not have associated with, it was this woman. But he was willing to go beyond his social circle in order to break barriers and build bridges.

John 4:27 (ESV) — 27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?"

Marveled? More like Aghast.

The disciples were blown away by the fact that here was the man they believed to be the Jewish Messiah talking with an adulterous, Samaritan woman all alone at a well. Did they join Jesus in his conversation with this woman? No way!

If you read through the rest of the passage you will discover that they didn't even speak to Jesus until after the woman had left them and gone back into town. And then when they did approach Jesus they didn't ever bring up the subject. Instead they asked him what he wanted for lunch. It is apparent that they were just going to pretend that this incident had never happened.

Jesus' disciples were quite prejudiced themselves. Luke records another time when Jesus was traveling through Samaria on his way to Jerusalem. He wanted to go to a particular village in Samaria and sent some of his disciples on ahead to prepare for his arrival, but the Samaritans in that town refused to welcome him. Luke tells us how James and John responded: "When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, 'Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?'" (Luke 9:54) They were ready to wipe out all of those dirty, rotten, good-for-nothing Samaritans without a second thought

**Third point to overcome Racism YOU MAY HAVE TO GO IT ALONE**

Jesus was going to have to go it alone and he was going to pay the price for it as well. It wasn't long after this that in John chapter 8 the Jewish leaders confronted him and said, "That clinches it. We were right all along when we called you a Samaritan and said you were crazy!"

Now I am not sure why they had been calling him a Samaritan all along, but it possibly could have been because of his interaction with this Samaritan woman among others. Just as someone who is prejudiced against blacks might refer to someone who befriends a black person as a "Negro-lover" so Jesus was being labeled a "Samaritan-lover" and believe me that was not meant as a compliment.

There's a song we all know called "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." In that song there is a verse that is dear to my heart.... that says: "Though none go with me, still I will follow." You know the lyrics, but have you lived them? Jesus did

John 4:39 (ESV) — 39 Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

Jesus was able to reach the people of that town because he was willing to go outside his comfort zone, beyond his social circle, and go it alone.

So since the Bible is clear that there is only one Race, surely the church over the years has reflected Jesus' teachings.....right? Unfortunately...No. The History of Jesus' Church is terribly counter to His teachings and desires.

I love studying the Civil War....particularly the Religious aspects of the war. I love reading sermons from pastors who taught during that time. **Bible Image** They are full of racial prejudice and ignorance. Not based on the entirety of God's Word but rather ripping verses out of context to make their biased and bigoted points. They taught that the "peculiar institution" of slavery was not only expedient but also ordained by God and upheld in Holy Scripture.

Southern preachers declared that slavery was a sacred trust imposed on the South by the slave traders of Great Britain and the northern states. Furthermore, some avowed, God had ordained slavery as a punishment for African paganism.

Jesus lived in a world where slavery existed, and he apparently uttered not a single word of censure against it. The letters of the apostle Paul contained explicit commands that slaves be obedient to their masters. Therefore, ran this argument, contemporary Christians had no business condemning as sinful a social arrangement that the Bible itself sanctioned.

Pastors in the North Taught At the war's outset, Northern churches were far from unanimous in their attitude toward human bondage. A few denounced the practice as a sin and called for immediate emancipation or abolition. At the other extreme, some argued that the Bible treated slavery as a morally legitimate institution.

At the start of the war, the avowed aim of Northern policy was to save the Union, not to free the slaves; but mixed results on the battlefield prompted a reassessment of goals.

Pastors who claimed God was on the side of the North had to explain early defeats in major battles. Early Defeats in the War were seen as God's Judgment on them. The defeat of Union armies seemed to be punishment of this sort, and the conviction grew that God would continue to chastise the North and would not allow it to win the war until it took steps to end slavery.



On at least three occasions, President Lincoln proclaimed public fast days when he urged Americans to go to their houses of worship, to confess their sins humbly to the Almighty, and to ask God's blessing. These and other less formally designated times of confession provided opportunities for ministers to express the conviction that the war was a baptism of blood.

Unfortunately the Civil War did little to resolve racism in the US. We have a horrible history as a nation when it comes to racial issues.

We obliterated the American Indians, enslaved the African Americans, When we could no longer enslaved them we oppressed them with segregation and substandard working and living arrangements and education. We Imprisoned Japanese Americans during WWII, and Racism is still one of the top 3 issues facing the survival of our nation.

But the Church of Jesus...is different....right? I mean those who follow the teachings of Jesus- who understand what He did in Samaria.....when people look at us- we are different right? In 1957 MLK wrote a letter to the church as if Paul or an apostle was writing a letter to the church today in America.

But America, another thing disturbs me about your church. You have a Negro church and you have a White church. Oh! America, that is quite disturbing, for that cannot exist within the true Body of Christ! How did that thing ever get into being anyway?!?! You have allowed segregation to come into the church, America! Oh, how tragic when you stand up on Sunday morning to sing In Christ there is no East or West - isn't it tragic that you stand in the most segregated hour of your Christian nation! They tell me there is more integration in sports arenas and nightclubs than there is in the Christian church! Oh, how tragic that is! How appalling that is! They tell me that there are even Christians among you who try to justify segregation on the basis of the Bible! They try to argue that the Negro is inferior by nature because of Noah's curse upon the children of Ham. Oh, my friends! Oh, America! This is blasphemy! This is against everything that the Christian religion stands for! This is against the will of the Almighty God!"

If you had been on the state capitol grounds in Jackson, Mississippi, on a certain Sunday morning in 1965, you'd have seen a strange sight. **Church Image** Across the street was a large church, and at the top of the front steps stood a row of white ushers, arms linked, barring the way to the doors. There were 4 or 5 black men, conservatively dressed for church, standing on the lower steps, facing the doors.


As one of these men approached the top step, an usher disengaged his arm and smashed the would-be visitor in the face, sending him sprawling down the step. Inside, the congregation was singing the opening hymn: "Love divine, all loves excelling..."

When it comes to racial issues in the church of America, we are all guilty of sin. We have allowed the Church of Jesus to become a weapon against the desires of God. God however has a solution.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (ESV) — 14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

Too often the church looks just like society. The church in Jackson was doing what everyone seemed to be doing in the South.



George Wallace  In 1962, George Wallace ran for governor of Alabama on a platform that was blatantly racist. He promised to fight integration to the point of defying federal orders and personally blockading schoolhouse doors. He ended his inaugural address with the infamous statement, "I say segregation, now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever."

That summer, he refused to allow black students to register at the University of Alabama until forced to do so by the threat of military intervention. Through his tenure as governor and a run for the presidency in 1968, Wallace spouted racial hatred while blacks were beaten and jailed, black churches were burned, and black children were murdered.

So as followers of Jesus how do we humble ourselves, pray, seek God's face, and turn from our wicked ways? We must turn to Gods' Word to better understand His truth. We need to soak in His view of Prejudice, Discrimination, Segregation and Racism

#### Prejudice judges a man's character by his outward appearance

People are prejudiced about someone's race.....their social status both the homeless and the mansion dwellers....their educational level both the uneducated and the know it alls....Prejudice is when you look at someone without knowing them and make assumptions.

They are white so they must be this....they are rich so they must think this....they are poor so they must be like this....they are black so they must be this way....

Prejudice is what leads to profiling.

Prejudice Is Ugly. It divides, isolates, and ostracizes people. Prejudice is the mark of an ignorant mind that perceives itself to be enlightened. Prejudice thinks it understands persons or actions before acquiring any actual first-hand knowledge, or before consulting with all the facts. Prejudice has its root in ignorance, and leads to further ignorance.

Prejudice Is Blind. After Jesus healed a man who was born blind, and witnessed that man's faith, He pointedly identified the Pharisee's prejudice, "And Jesus said, 'For judgment I have come into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may be made blind.' Then some of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these words and said to Him, 'Are we blind also?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, "We see" Therefore your sin remains.'" (John 9:39-41).

Prejudice Is A Perception Problem. It is defined as "unfavorable judgment due to partiality." Likewise, prejudice is never neutral. It reacts strongly either for or against someone or something without knowing the facts. Sometimes it is confused with conviction, but there is nothing that noble about prejudice.

Prejudice will blind us to the truth at best, and cause us to believe a lie at worst,

"I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality." (1 Timothy 5:21).

#### Prejudice judges a man's character by his outward appearance

Discrimination deprives a person of the right to have

Segregation deprives a person of the right to belong

Stereotyping deprives a person of the right to be

Stereotypes Lead To Prejudice. Stereotyping is a lazy way of lumping together all of those who come from a certain class, or a certain occupation, or a certain race, and attributing to each individual the same characteristics of the group. Although something may generally be true of a group, it is not specifically true of each person in that group.

I have never been more stereotyped in my life than I have been in the last 10 years. Americans have become splitters and spitters.

I am a white male. Conservative Christian. Republican. Southern Roots. Well Educated. Wealthy. Pastor. Doctor. Gun Owner. Texan. Pro Police. Pro Military. Pro USA.

As soon as you hear those things you make assumptions about me. Many of the assumptions are true. Each of these labels tell you something about me. The problem is when you then jump to conclusions about me as an individual. Placing your prejudices on the group that I am in. It is what we all do and then blame others for doing. While we pretend that we are not doing it. Some assumptions are true....but not all.

Stereotyping is when you fail to go any deeper than labels. For instance. If there was a Democratic Candidate for President who was anti-abortion, Supported the Christian's right to express their faith and truths, validated God's truth about sexual identity, appointed pro life people to the courts and supported God's definition of marriage and family...I would be a Democrat. Because I align with them on many issues related to helping the poor, bringing education to all, preserving the environment for those who follow us, and yes even health care for everyone.

If you say that could never happen...then you just stereotyped the Democrats. See how easy it is? There was a time in our nation....that I can remember...when your political party affiliation had to do only with your perspective of how involved Government should be in the lives of Americans and the approach to our economic future. It was not back then about having to punch a check list of social ideologies.

The Bible says that those who judge according to outward appearance are foolish—that we do not see people the way God sees them, “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7).

#### Racism deprives a person of the right to birth

Racial Prejudice Is not new. It was prevalent in Biblical Times

John 1:46 (ESV) — 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

John 4:9 (ESV) — 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.” (Ephesians 4:29).)ve no dealings with Samaritans.)

John 8:48 (ESV) — 48 The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?”

Racism Uses Crude Descriptions Of People. They are offensive and demeaning. Such ugly slurs should never come from the hearts of men and women who are bought by the blood of Christ,

Racism Is A Small Minded Man's Way Of Elevating Himself. Such affronts are the attempts of some people to elevate themselves, by putting down and stepping on others

Philippians 2:3-4 (ESV) — 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Racism Is Arrogant And Foolhardy. One race cannot be better than another because all of us have sprung from the same ancestors. We are all of one blood,

"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 habitation." (Acts 17:26).

Racism Is A Sin Of Pride. One considers himself to be better than someone else because of nothing more than a genetic combination of chromosomes,

"For if anyone thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself." (Galatians 6:3).

God must consider racism an important sin to overcome, because He performed a notable miracle to dispel the Jewish prejudice against the Gentiles. Peter's first hint came with his vision of the animals descending from heaven upon a great sheet. The conclusion of all of those events (Acts 10:1-23) was unmistakable

"God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean... In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." (Acts 10:28,34-35).

Race makes no difference to God—He shows no favoritism to any race that assumes it is superior to another.

Likewise, He shows no partiality to a race that has been mistreated, "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." (Acts 10:28,34-35).

God is color blind,

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28). Are you color blind too?

So what are we to do if we have realized this morning that our view of the human race has been sinful? If God is speaking to us about our view of others?

We must confess (speak God's truth) and repent (change our mind and agree with God) Remember that it is only the work of the Holy Spirit who can truly change someone's heart. Who can truly move them to pour out God's love where there once was Man's Hate.

On May 15, 1972 while campaigning in Laurel, Maryland, Wallace was shot five times, leaving him paralyzed and in constant pain. Two years later – confined to a wheel chair, divorced from his second wife, without the use of his legs, and lacking control of bodily functions – Wallace was a broken, pathetic figure. He was a man who finally understood the meaning of suffering. He was a man who had come to realize what suffering he had caused others.

While being driven home one evening, he passed the open doors of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church (IMAGE), a black congregation where years earlier Martin Luther King, Jr., had stood in the pulpit and denounced Wallace for his treatment of African Americans.

Overcome with remorse, Wallace stopped the car, was helped into his wheelchair, and wheeled up the aisle to the stunned surprise of the assembly. There, Wallace tearfully confessed he had been wrong, apologized for the suffering he had caused, and asked the blacks of Alabama to forgive him. More importantly He confessed his sins before God, repented and received the forgiveness that only comes from God. From that moment forward....God took him out of desperation....and led him to transformation.

It was an expression of remorse he was to repeat on numerous occasions in the following years – publicly, before black audiences on campuses and conventions, and privately, to black leaders like Coretta Scott King and Jesse Jackson.

During two more terms as governor (1974 and 1982), he built bridges to the black community, developed relationships with prominent black leaders, and worked to undo some of the damage his own racist rhetoric had caused. Until the very end, while bedridden and deaf, he still received visits from friends, both black and white, and met with groups of both races for prayer.

When Jesus followers ignore His teachings on the value of the Human Race....when we forget that Red, and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, the speak of the Gospel is hindered.

People don't turn to Jesus if they see nothing in His followers worth following.

Mahatma Gandhi **Image** In his autobiography, Mahatma Gandhi wrote that during his student days he read the Gospels seriously and considered converting to Christianity. He believed that in the teachings of Jesus he could find the solution to the caste system that was dividing the people of India.

So one Sunday he decided to attend services at a nearby church and talk to the minister about becoming a Christian. When he entered the sanctuary, however, the usher refused to give him a seat and suggested that he go worship with his own people. Gandhi left the church and never returned, "If Christians have caste differences also, " he said, "I might as well remain a Hindu." That usher's prejudice not only betrayed Jesus but also turned a person away from trusting Him as Savior.

Gandhi was perhaps the most influential leader of his people in his day. And here was the opportunity to influence this influential leader for Jesus Christ. He was open to receiving Jesus. He was openly seeking Jesus. And because of the prejudiced actions of a church usher the opportunity was missed and he turned his back on Jesus and His church.

During his earthly ministry Jesus shattered the stereotypes of "us" and "them." During his day he had to go it alone. But what about today? Does he still have to go it alone? Or will you go with him?

Jesus' followers are never to do anything other than to celebrate the differences of our skin color. We have never met a person that Jesus didn't die for.

We celebrate diversity in nature and go to great extremes to point out the creative nature of our God when it comes to creating various kinds of..... Animals....

**Photos**

But we don't see His creativity...His perfect design....His character and order in the Human Race.

**Human Photos**

Remnant is a church where only one race is accepted- We welcome all who are in the Human Race to celebrate Jesus with us. We will step out of our comfort zone....we will go beyond our social circles...and if necessary...we may have to go it alone. Let's Pray