

RACISM — A BIBLICAL RESPONSE
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The Gospel of Christ is the only lasting solution to the problem of racism. To some people, this suggestion may sound overly simplistic. Yet, in the teachings of Christ we find “a more excellent way,” and that way is *agape* love (I Cor. 12:31; 13:1-7). It is a love given freely, selflessly, and without regard for the loved one’s condition. It is the love shown by God to man, and the love Christians aspire to show toward God and toward other men.

Perhaps the best biblical analogy to modern interracial strife is the conflict between Jews and Gentiles which arose in the early church. On many occasions, the apostles emphasized that there was, and is, no scriptural basis for discrimination among Christians of different religious, cultural or (racial) backgrounds (Acts 15:9). Peter, through divine revelation, introduced this idea to the church, teaching that God does not discriminate against Jews or Gentiles in making available His plan of salvation (Acts 10:34; cf. I Pet. 1:17). Indeed, Paul felt he owed the Gospel to both the Jews and the Gentiles, “for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Rom. 1:14-16).

Paul also declared, “there is no partiality with God” (Rom. 2:11), and on two occasions he said there is “no respect of persons” with God (Eph. 6:9; Col. 3:25). James urged his brethren to fulfill the “royal law” by not showing partiality (James 2:1,9). This “partiality” or “respect of persons” is the same as prejudice. It means judging someone based on their outward circumstances, and not their intrinsic merits (cf. I Sam. 16:7). Love forbids such partiality, and seeks to prevent the conflict of “evil thoughts” that such partiality will bring (James 2:4).

There are problems in the world, and in our local communities, that we cannot correct through our own wisdom (Jer. 9:23; 20:23). Instead, we must look to the Gospel of Christ to remove man-made barriers like racism. Our first priority as Christians, therefore, is to live by the Gospel we teach. In so doing, we will obey God’s commands (John 14:15,21), and imitate His actions of love (Eph. 5:1; II Pet. 1:7). If we live by the Gospel, we will share it with all nations, not just those of our own color or culture (Matt. 28:19).

Note: This information was taken from a tract written by these two
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