

# Theological Equipping Class

## *Diversity and Racial Reconciliation*

August 9, 2020

### Introduction

#### Questions that Plague the Conversation

- Is there systemic injustice today?
- Are persons of color disproportionately killed by police officers?
- Are all whites complicit in cultural or racism?
- How do we define racism? Can minorities be racist?

#### 4 Main Questions to Answer Today

- What is race?
- What is racism?
- What makes this conversation so difficult?
- What is the solution?

### **What is race?**

Trinity: unity and diversity

Humanity: unity and diversity

*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages... (Revelation 7:9)*

What about race?

Race vs. ethnicity: biological vs. cultural

"Othering" in Scripture

Romans and barbarians  
Jews and Gentiles

Racial or ethnic?

Where does the idea of race as we think of it today come from?

It's the Germans.

Why differentiation on the basis of race is unfortunate:

1. Imago dei
2. Common ancestor
3. Reconciliation in Christ
4. Race is less important than culture

## What is racism?

*prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed at a person or people on the basis of their membership within a particular racial or ethnic group*

Racism according to the Bible:

Implicit, not explicit

*Now the works of the flesh are evident...enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy... (Galatians 5:19–21)*

Why racism is evil:

1. refutes the imago dei
2. forgets our common heritage in Adam
3. forsakes the command to love your neighbor
4. breaks the command against showing partiality
5. rejects the reality of a new creation in Christ
6. distorts the doctrine of justification by faith.

Historical examples of racism:

- Antebellum slavery
- Jim Crow
- KKK
- Non-American versions
  - Holocaust
  - Apartheid
  - Genocide
  - Caste system

Modern racism:

Overt or subtle

Everyone should be willing to agree with the following propositions:

1. People of every race, ethnicity, people group, & language are made in the image of God & thus worthy of our love and of justice and equality before the law.
2. Actual racism is sin and thus evil.
3. We should search our hearts for any signs of residual racism.

## **What makes this conversation difficult today?**

protests, defunding the police, CHAZ, jerseys, virtue signaling, screaming

8 Reasons this is confusing and controversial today:

1. Politicization and polarization
2. Influence of the media
3. Division in the church
4. Unbiblical assumptions
5. Equivocation
6. Propaganda
7. Misinformation
8. Philosophical presuppositions

### Politicization and polarization

No conversation, only monologue

Catch-22 for the Christian

### Influence of the media

Bias and outrage culture

### Division in the church

### Unbiblical assumptions:

privilege is bad and should be repented of

stereotyping is inherently discriminatory

repenting for the sins of our ancestors

disparity between races is inevitably due to racism

## Equivocation

when a word is used in different ways in the midst of a conversation

Example: we should love homosexuals

Equivocation and race

The meaning of racism: prejudice plus power or even power without prejudice

What is equality?

Formal equality: laws should treat everyone equally

Material or substantive equality: you should intentionally treat people differently or unequally so as to achieve equal results

Partiality in the Bible

- *You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with a wicked man to be a malicious witness. You shall not fall in with the many to do evil, nor shall you bear witness in a lawsuit, siding with the many, so as to pervert justice, nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his lawsuit. (Exodus 23:1–3)*
- *You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. (Leviticus 19:15)*
- *You shall not pervert justice. You shall not show partiality, and you shall not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of the righteous. Justice, and only justice, you shall follow... (Deuteronomy 16:19–20)*
- *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality. (1 Timothy 5:21)*
- *But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. (James 2:9)*

## Propaganda

Babykillers vs. pro-choice

Anti-racists

Black Lives Matter

Assumptions behind the phrase: systemic racism, disproportionality in policing

Explicit endorsements: Marxism, abortion, LGBTQ, breakdown of the family

"That's the whole point of good propaganda. You want to create a slogan that nobody's going to be against, and everybody's going to be for. Nobody knows what it means, because it doesn't mean anything." Noam Chomsky

## Misinformation

Hypothetical pandemic

"we're literally hunted everyday/everytime we step foot outside the comfort of our homes" LBJ

Are police disproportionately and unjustly murdering scores of black men and women on a regular basis?

Data

How many deaths?

What about proportionality?

The problem with pesky facts

2+2=4?

Individual instances of shootings

Is it really about race or is something else happening?

Tragedy doesn't always mean injustice

The problem with resisting arrest

What does "unarmed" even mean?

Reverse injustice

*He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the Lord. (Proverbs 17:15)*

### Philosophical Presuppositions

Critical theory: Positions of POWER

Marxism: Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia, communist China, Khmer Rouge, Venezuela

Oppressor vs. oppressed: gender, religion, sexuality, socioeconomic class

Race: Critical Race Theory

What is CRT? The belief that race is a socially constructed concept created by those in power in order to oppress minorities (specifically, African-Americans or "people of color").

Oppressed classes and intersectionality

Problems with CRT

1. Identity in race, gender, sexuality, etc. rather than Christ
2. Objective truth and the authority and sufficiency of Scripture

For more: "The Evangelical Drift"

Why Christians should oppose CRT and BLM

*Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, & uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. (Isaiah 59:14–15)*

The problem of mice and cobras

## **What is the solution?**

Two unhelpful approaches

1. Reconciliation and justice aren't important

*And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." (Galatians 3:8)*

2. Use secular theories to help.

Why we can't just eat the meat and spit out the bone

What is the bigger threat to the church?

Gospel truths to remember for the sake of reconciliation:

1. Reconciliation has already occurred.

*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— 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. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 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, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. (Ephesians 2:11–16)*

2. Justification is by grace alone through faith alone.

Thank God I'm white | Thank God I'm not white

The result of justification by work is always pride or shame

Pride: Thank God I'm woke | Thank God I'm an anti-racist

Shame: incessant guilt

How to actually get clean

3. The King wins.

*And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (Revelation 5:9–10)*



For further study

- Statistics and data: Thomas Sowell, John McWhorter, & Heather MacDonald
- Christian responses: Neil Shenvi, Voddie Baucham, Darrell Harrison, Doug Wilson, & John MacArthur