

**I. Central Definitions of Racism:**

- A. Racism can be defined as the belief that one people group is more valuable than another and the practice of distinguishing one people group as more important than another.<sup>1</sup>
- B. “Fundamentally, racism has to do not merely with real or perceived differences between people groups but with the value and significance of these differences. It has to do with the presumption of superiority over other people groups and the conduct of personal and social life that manifest this presumption in personal, communal, and sociocultural ways. Racism has to do with beliefs, actions, and structures that centralize some by marginalizing others on the basis of supposed differences.”<sup>2</sup>
- C. Whereas the word racism is not in the Bible, the concept can be understood as a practice of unbiblical partiality (i.e. ungodly bias towards people groups that results in elevating one people group and demeaning another people group; i.e. a **respect of persons not sanctioned by God**).

**II. Key Perspectives About Racism**

- A. Racism exposes a misguided and unbiblical view about other people. (Acts 10:28,34-35, Numbers 12:1)
- B. Racism breeds division between people groups that can lead to a disdain for or a pursuit of dominance over or demise of other people groups. (Galatians 2:11-13, Genesis 43:30-32, Exodus 1:8-11, Esther 3:1-6)
- C. God is no respecter of persons. Unbiblical partiality demonstrates a respect of persons not sanctioned by God. Therefore, any unbiblical partiality is a contradiction to who He is and how He wants us as Christians to live. (Romans 2:9-11, Galatians 2:6, James 2:1-4, 8-9, Romans 12:16)

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<sup>1</sup> John Piper, *Bloodlines* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway), 239. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Douglas R. Sharp, *No Partiality: The Idolatry of Race and the New Humanity* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002), 52.

### III. Implications we can glean from the passages above:

- A. The belief that one people group is more valuable than another demonstrates a lack of love for God and a lack of love for others.
- B. The practice of distinguishing one people group as more important than another demonstrates a lack of love for God and a lack of love for others.
- C. Centralizing some people groups by marginalizing other people groups on the basis of supposed differences demonstrates a lack of love for God and a lack of love for others.
- D. Demeaning one people group and elevating another people group demonstrates a lack of love for God and a lack of love for others.
- E. Where there is racism, one's evaluation of other people groups is limited to one's personal experience and/or misguided belief systems. This results in one having a superior view of their own people group and a demeaning view of other people groups.
- F. Where there is racism, one's emotions and desires are governed by misguided ideas about one's own people group, and misguided interpretations of personal experiences and other people groups.
- G. Where there is racism, one will make other people groups the source of their problems, and the ridding or marginalizing of that group the solution to their problems.
- H. Where there is racism, there is criticism or condemnation of one's own people group for connecting with or marrying people outside of one's own people group.
- I. In summary, racism stems from a misguided view of oneself, God, and other people groups. Racism is a practice of unbiblical partiality (i.e. a respect of persons not sanctioned by God).

### Reflection

Racism is an affront to God, because it redefines God's creation into the image created by man thereby seeking to make man big and God small. This is not a political or social problem. This is a sin problem of the heart. Laws can be made, but transformation of the heart and submission to God in reconciliation to the new order of existence created in Christ Jesus our Lord will be the only way to conquer racism. Therefore, only Christians have the ability to show the world the cure and the calling of a life that can be free of racism through salvation and sanctification in Christ Jesus our Lord-- walking in the grace that saves us, sanctifies us, and empowers us to serve Him by loving others accordingly. Consider this quote:

“Because of our culture's racist roots, because of the way the world thinks, because of the influence of Darwinian thinking, we have been programmed to look at the exterior rather than the interior of a person, and to make broad judgments based on what we see. Had you not been programmed that way in this culture, you wouldn't see the differences as you do. Different cultures are programmed in different ways. Our biases and prejudice show themselves in different ways, but in every case it is the world and our sinfulness (rather than science and the Bible) that drives our personal racism.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ken Ham and A. Charles Ware, *One Race One Blood* (Green Forest, AR: Master Books), 100- 116.