

# RACISM

# Topic: Racism

## Discuss and Summarize the Secular Worldview:

Sample Summary: People are grouped into races or separate biological entities or tribes. One group may see itself as superior to another, causing discrimination or prejudice between them. Some groups see systemic racism in all facets of modern life, fomenting hatred between groups.

## Discuss and Summarize the Christian Worldview:

Sample Summary: We are all one race, the human race, created by God. All people descended from Adam and Eve with varying skin tones and features. We are all equal in God's sight. Racism is sinful. Sin causes people to desire superiority over others, creating divisions. People originally all spoke the same language. At Babel, God confused their languages. People who shared the same language migrated away from Babel together. The genetic separation caused by the migration, resulted in certain physical features becoming dominant within these people groups. Jesus Christ is the second Adam and brings the good news of salvation through His death and resurrection to all people, no matter their skin color or ethnic group.

## Why This is Important:

Critical Race Theory and Diversity-Equity-Inclusion programs create divisions between people based on skin color and other factors causing inequalities in hiring, housing, scholarships, criminal justice, and many other areas. In extreme cases, violence erupts. Some activist groups foment hatred, to increase their importance.

## Scripture Says:

Genesis 1:26, Genesis 3:20, Genesis 11:1-9, Acts 17:26, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:22-4:1, Galatians 3:27-28, 1 Timothy 1:8-11, Leviticus 25:35-55, Philemon 8-21, Luke 6:31, Deuteronomy 21:10-14, Luke 19:10

## Worth Considering:

- Adam and Eve likely had medium brown skin tones with great genetic capacity. The people groups leaving Babel lost genetic

variation as they spread out and separated from one another. Certain features such as skin tone, eye color, and hair color, became dominant within each group.

- God's Word instructs us to treat others fairly and not ruthlessly.
- Charles Darwin's book "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life" provided a path to racism and the eugenics movement:
  - 1) Margaret Sanger started Planned Parenthood to weed out those in poverty and with unfavorable traits from the gene pool. She started "The Negro Project" to sterilize blacks.
  - 2) Adolph Hitler's "Final Solution" goal was to annihilate the Jewish people. Evolution and eugenics were key factors.
  - 3) Evolution theory is often presented as a scientific fact.
- Critical Race Theory, based in Marxism, teaches that skin color creates insurmountable divisions between people, with oppressor and oppressed classes.
- "Chattel" slavery, or humans as a form of property, includes forced labor, sexual exploitation, forced marriages, human trafficking, and birth into slavery. Historically, conquered people became slaves to the victors. Race-based slavery is a more recent development. It's estimated that 50 million people are enslaved around the world today and is happening in every country.
- Jesus' ministry was not to overturn earthly governments or right society's wrongs, but to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)
- Abolition of slavery grew out of Christian theology, valuing all people as being made in the image and likeness of God.
- Paul wrote to Philemon regarding his runaway slave, Onesimus, urging restoration between the two as fellow brothers in Christ.
- No matter how racist regimes try to de-humanize certain people or group as non-human, Neanderthals, Pygmies, Palestinians, Jews, Asians, Eskimos, American Indians, Democrats, Republicans, Minnesotans, Africans, immigrants, transgenders, and unborn humans are all fully human beings, made in the image of God.

## Questions to Consider:

- If sin is truly the root cause of racism, what course(s) of action should Christians take about it?
- Scientists selectively breed animals and plants to pass along favorable characteristics to the next generation. Is this wrong?
- Many Christians believe that God created using evolution over billions of years. Does this encourage racism? While not a salvation issue, does it compromise their faith in any way?
- Has today's discussion made you reconsider any of your views?