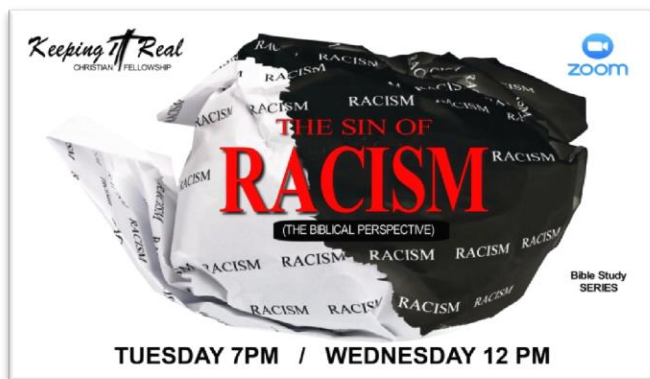


“THE SIN OF RACISM” Pt. 2

“Jesus said to him, *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*” -- Matthew 22:37-39



Biblically, sin is anything that falls short of God’s will and glory, that violates his law and His character (1 John 3:4; Romans 3:23). There are at least four (4) ways in which what we will be calling “racism” is a violation of God’s glory and therefore sin. IT IS SIN!

2. Because of the commandment to love your neighbor. Jesus summed up all the laws of God into two “great commandments” (Matthew 22:37-39).

When Jesus is asked to define love of neighbor, he depicts someone who, at great risk and sacrifice, meets the physical and material needs of a man of a different race and religion from himself (Luke 10:25-37).

“Go and do likewise” Jesus says to us, meaning that we must treat people of other races, nationalities, classes, and groups with the same amount of care, respect, and love that we would give to ourselves or members of our own communities

Jesus taught that love is shown by action ... that it must not be limited by race, and that at times it is costly.

4 BASIC REASONS WHY RACISM IS SIN

1. Because of the image of God.
2. **Because of the commandment to love your neighbor.**
3. Because of the new creation.
4. Because of the gospel of justification by grace through faith alone.

Next to sex and gender, the subject of race is the most discussed topic in our culture today. Storms of rhetoric and conflict swirl around it every day in politics, the arts, business, the media, and especially social media. It is natural and right for Christians to speak in these conversations out of their personal experience.

But since we believe that the Bible has the right to interpret our experience and to critique every culture ... It is important to say at the outset, of course ... that all of us read the Scripture through the lens of our own culture, which partially distorts our view of its teaching. So when we discuss **‘what the Bible says about race’** ... we need to do so with a spirit of humility and openness to correction.

Racism is incompatible with the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself!

The Merriam Webster dictionary calls racism “a belief that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.” If you hold this belief, it means you do not love your neighbor as yourself (cp. Ephesians 5:28-29), for you believe people of a different race or races are inherently inferior to you and less worthy of the love you would give to yourself. This belief lacks mercy, compassion, and kindness towards another person. It is explicitly un-Christian. (1 John 4:7-11)



“If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.” (1 John 4:20-21)

REPENTING OF RACISM

What does it mean to repent of racism? In one sense the answer is simple. Repenting is first and primarily to God. All sins are ultimately against Him, His will and against His good creation.

But “repent” for the more deliberate ways you may have violated the image of God, neighbor love, the new creation, and the gospel of grace.

Keep in mind that we are called not only to repent of “willful” deliberate sins (Psalm 19:13). The psalmist asks “Who can discern their own errors” so “Forgive my hidden faults” (Psalm 19:12). We should therefore be willing to repent for the ways in which we may be doing “**Racial Othering**” (preferencing) of which we are barely conscious.

