

RACE, GRACE, AND INJUSTICE

WHAT IS THE GRACE RESPONSE?

*"Be not deceived:
evil communications corrupt good manners."*

~ 1 Corinthians 15:33

1. The Race Conversation

- a. The historical conversation – slavery/war, evolution/natural selection, Jim Crow, BLM
- b. Everyone is responding ... how should we respond? We are told what to say... but...
- c. The Lord has given us what he wants us to say – Col 4:3-4, 1 Cor 2:1-7, 2 Cor 4:13
- d. 1 Cor 15:33 – Bad doctrine results in bad behavior and bad consequences
- e. Christians need to clean up the centuries old mess in our own backyard.
 - i. Josiah Priest, black churches, curse of Ham, Liberation Theology, Noah's sons
- f. Racism rooted in sin and ignorance → Grace doctrine deals with both.

2. "No Jew or Gentile" – Gal 3:28

- a. Much of what is abused from the Bible to teach racism is not under grace
- b. Israel was not chosen for their superiority – Deu 7:7, Rom 3:10, 23 11:32
- c. We are not Israel – God does not work through a "race" of people – Rom 11:11
- d. Not to give heed to endless genealogies – 1 Tim 1:4
- e. The national separation of Israel used to justify "separate but equal", but Acts 10:34
- f. No respect of persons with God – Lev 19:15, Deu 1:16-17, Rom 2:11, Eph 6:9
- g. There is one body, one fellowship, one blood, one calling – Eph 4:4-6, Acts 17:26

3. "Depart from iniquity" – 2 Tim 1:19

- a. There is none righteous – Rom 3:10 – we are all depraved and need Rom 6:19
- b. Every one of us shall give an account - Rom 14:12
- c. The judgment of God (and hell) is needed for justice – 2Cor 5:10, 2Th 1:4-8, 1Th 4:6
- d. There is NOT equal outcome in scriptural judgment – there is equal opportunity.
- e. There are those that bear the sword for good – Rom 13:4, riots are flesh – 13:12-14

4. "Speak the truth in love" – Eph 4:15

- a. Foolishness of preaching to save – 1 Cor 1:18-21
- b. The war on black poverty has destroyed the black family (65% children w/o fathers)
- c. #1 killer of young black lives in America, homicide/abortion, we need Eph 6:4

5. "God... hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation" – 2 Cor 5:18

- a. We know no man after the flesh – 2 Cor 5:16
- b. The Lord's ministry reconciles by putting men into Christ – 2 Cor 5:17
- c. Nothing we can do to ultimately right the wrongs – Christ did it all – Titus 3:5
- d. Glory from the greatest injustice in history is our message – God offers salvation.
- e. Salvation is found in Christ, not in sympathy nor in the State. 2 Cor 6:1-10

Dictionary.com - Random House Dictionary ~definition of 'racism'

"A belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others."

Charles Darwin - On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life. (1859)

Jamieson, Fausset, & Brown (1871)

"Gen 9:25 - Cursed be Canaan— This doom has been fulfilled in the destruction of the Canaanites— in the degradation of Egypt and the slavery of the Africans, the descendants of Ham.

"he shall dwell in the tents of Shem" — a prophecy being fulfilled at the present day, as in India British Government is established and the Anglo-Saxons being in the ascendancy from Europe to India, from India over the American continent. What a wonderful prophecy in a few verses (Isa 46:10; 1Pet 1:25)!"

Aurthur Custance - In his Doorway Paper series, Noah's Three Sons, (1976)

"This threefold division is more than merely a genetic variation of certain "racial" types: there is evidence that it is intended to indicate that the three branches of the race were divinely apportioned a characteristic capacity which has been reflected in the unique contribution each branch has rendered in the service of mankind as a whole."

Custance goes on in his papers to say that these capacities and aptitudes are genetic and our knowledge of a person's genes could help us understand their unique capacities and contributions.

Henry Morris - The Beginning of the World, 1977, 2006 edition.

"Truly, they [Hamites] have been the "servants" of mankind in a most amazing way. Yet the prophecy again has its obverse side. Somehow, they have only gone so far and no farther. The Japhethites and Semites have, sooner or later, taken over their territories and their inventions, and then developed them and utilized them for their own enlargement. Often the Hamites, especially the Negroes, have become actual personal servants or even slaves to the others. Possessed of a genetic character concerned mainly with mundane matters, they were eventually displaced by the intellectual and philosophical acumen of the Japhethites and the religious zeal of the Semites."

Richard Jordan - President, Grace School of the Bible (20th c.)

"What you are going to see here is a divinely appointed division of responsibility to care for the specific needs of mankind at three fundamental levels of need. Three racial heads. There is Shem. Then there's Ham; then, Japheth. Those three. God appoints each one of them a specific area of human need to take care of. There is the spiritual need that people have. There are the physical needs that they have, then, there are intellectual needs. ... These three needs are designed to be met by the specific contributions by these three racial groups." - Quotation taken from the Genesis class 103 lesson 5 of Grace School of the Bible

Josiah Priest – Biblical Defense of Slavery (1851)

“ . . . It was from the lips of this man [Noah] that the everlasting God chose to announce the curse or malediction of servitude and slavery upon Ham and his race, as it is written, Gen. ix, 25 – 27.”

“ It cannot be supposed for a moment, that Noah would allow the three distinct complexions, or races, of his family to mingle or amalgamate, for he knew it was God who had produced, for a wise purpose, these very characters; amalgamation, therefore, would certainly have destroyed what God so evidently had ordained and caused to exist.”

“The appointment of this race of men to servitude and slavery was a judicial act of God, or, in other words, was a divine judgment. There are three evidences of this, which are as follows:

FIRST – The fact of their being created or produced in a lower order of intellectuality than either of the other races (as we shall prove in due order), their forms, natures or passions agreeing therewith, is evidence of the preordination of their fate as slaves on the earth, as none but God could have done or determined this thing.

SECOND – The announcement of God by the mouth of Noah, relative to the whole race of Ham, pointing out in so many words, in the clearest and most specific manner, that they were adjudged to slavery, as we have already shown from the book of Genesis, agreeing with the first witness as above, namely, that they were foreordained and appointed to the condition they hold among men by the divine Mind, solely on account of the foreseen character they would sustain as a race, who, therefore, were thus judicially put beneath the supervision of the other races.

THIRD – The great and everywhere pervading fact of their degraded condition, both now and in all time, more or less, is the very climax-witness that, in the above conclusion, we are not mistaken – namely, that the negro race, as a people, are judicially given over to a state or peculiar liability of being enslaved by the other races.”

Margaret Sanger (founder of Planned Parenthood) “Birth Control and Racial Betterment” (1919)

“Today eugenics is suggested by the most diverse minds as the most adequate and thorough avenue in the solution of racial, political and social problems.”

“A Plan for Peace” (1932): [The government should] “give certain dysgenic groups in our population their choice of segregation or sterilization.”