

CRITICAL THINKING FOR CRITICAL TIMES - A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO DANGEROUS ASSAULTS ON THE TRUTH - PART 4

AFFIRMATIONS & DENIALS

These affirmations and denials are our attempt to articulate where we stand on these issues; Scripture properly interpreted is the supreme authority in all such matters.

We affirm that there are racists (people who hate other people simply on the basis of their ethnicity). They exist everywhere in the world; they exist in our country; and they exist within the walls of the church.

We deny that every person in a particular ethnic group is guilty of racism.

We affirm that racism is not confined to one particular ethnic group. Racism isn't confined to some White people against Black people. There are racists of every ethnic background.

We deny that Black people cannot be racist (the claim of the Black Lives Matter Movement). The Scriptures teach otherwise.

No ethnic group is racist-free, and if you want to claim that racism is “systemic,” you'd be correct in at least one sense: Man's sin problem inside of him, and his propensity to hate his fellow man, is most definitely systemic!

Rom 1:28–31—*“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.”*

1 John 3:10, 14–15—*“By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not ... love his brother [is not of God]. ... We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”*

We affirm that our country's extraordinary birth and noble Judeo-Christian influences throughout its history are blighted and stained by the atrocities of slavery and the decades-long struggle to end it and to crush the racism that fed and bred it.

We deny that the historical wickedness in America leads to the inevitable conclusion that our country's founding principles and noble worldwide influence should be overthrown and replaced with socialism or Marxism.

We affirm that our country did abolish slavery and permanently stigmatized it as a violation of the God-given equality and dignity of human beings (1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which was finally ratified in the 13th amendment to our Constitution in 1865, effectively abolishing the practice).

We deny that this achievement ought to be minimized based on the current existence of racists in our country.

We affirm that the Civil Rights Movement and its successes in the 1950s and 1960s were absolutely crucial in eliminating legally protected racial hatred and discrimination, particularly rampant in certain Southern states.

We deny that because some ethnic groups still experience discrimination based on skin color alone, that therefore the Civil Rights Movement accomplished nothing of any consequence.

We affirm that many individuals from every ethnic group today have experienced and do experience slights, derogatory epithets, and general racist dislike from some individuals from other ethnic groups.

We deny that every individual from a particular ethnic group is either blatantly or latently racist, and we deny that any alleged “privilege” makes it inevitable and irremediable (beyond a cure).

We affirm that despite the existence of racists and racism, true Christians are being radically transformed from hatred to love by the power of the Gospel, and therefore can strive in the Holy Spirit to put to death all “bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander” (Eph 4:31)—sins at the very heart of racism.

We deny that Christians have a moral obligation—equal to the Great Commission—to “admit their innate racism” and join the cultural cause of various groups claiming to be “systemically oppressed.”

We affirm that every human being—made in the image of God—matters! Therefore, we affirm that Black Lives Do Matter, as do all others, and that many good people—including Christians—who have identified with the slogan “Black Lives Matter” genuinely desire to confront any and all racism that exists in society, particularly when facts indisputably prove that a crime is committed because of racial hatred against someone of an ethnic minority.

We deny that the organization called “Black Lives Matter” is a law-abiding organization committed to racial equality. They are, in fact, a highly organized, lavishly funded, racist political faction whose founders boldly stated their quest to deconstruct the biblical definition of the family, to normalize and champion sexual deviancy, and to demonize men and masculinity, according to BLM’s own statement.

We affirm that wherever a Christian experiences the hatred or disdain of others based upon their ethnicity, it is their duty and privilege to trust God, love and pray for their enemies, forgive all trespasses against them, and to teach and admonish the guilty so that they repent and begin to love in a manner worthy of Christ.

We deny that genuine Christians who experience mistreatment because of their ethnicity are “owed” and therefore should demand reparations, or that they are excused from responding to mistreatment with faith, love toward enemies, forgiveness, and admonishing one another.