

**TAKING DOWN THE ROPES
ISAIAH 1:17 / 6-28-20 / A.M.**

I. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT RACISM?

- A. Black Lives Matter (BLM) as a movement began in 2013 in response to two separate police shootings of two young black men.
 - 1. Biblically speaking “BLM” is true because African-Americans are equally created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26).
 - 2. Some, mostly white Americans, respond by saying, “All Lives Matter”.

- B. What does the Bible say about race and racism?
 - 1. First, all people are created equal—Gen. 1:27.
 - 2. Second, all people have equal standing with God—Gal. 3:28.
 - 3. Third, favoritism of any race is a sin—James 2:1.
 - 4. Fourth, Jesus commands us to love all people—Matt. 22:39.
 - 5. Fifth, Jesus died for all people regardless of race—Rev. 14:6.

- C. Rick Warren, pastor of the California mega church called “Saddle Back Church” said in a sermon....
 - 1. **“Our nation is desperate for healing and the Church cannot be silent.”**
 - 2. He then quoted Titus 2:11.
 - 3. Then Pastor Warren said, **“God has never made a person He doesn’t love.”**
 - 4. He also read from 2 Chronicles 19:7.
 - 5. The Bible has a lot to say about racism. The Church, should also speak up and refuse to stay silent.

II. SO, KNOWING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT RACISM, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- A. From the time he became a Christian, Billy Graham said, “**I could not understand segregation in the Church.**”
- B. So, what can we do, as Churches and Christians to take down the ropes, not just of segregation, but also ropes of racism?
 - 1. Ed Stetzer, the Billy Graham Professor of Church and Evangelism at Wheaton College, says there are three things we must do to take down the ropes of racism.
 - a. First, realize we Christians are called to demonstrate the radical love of Jesus.
 - b. Second, recognize all people are members of the human race, regardless of color.
 - c. Third, make a personal commitment to do better than we have in the past—1 John 4:20.
 - 2. Rick Warren adds three more things we must do to take these ropes down.
 - a. First, we must see people as God does.
 - b. Second, we must learn to listen to other people with respect instead of responding defensively.
 - c. Third, we must love everyone as Jesus does—John 15:12.

John 15:12

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.