

One Race – The Human Race

1 John 4:19-21 We are called to love our neighbour.

We love, because He first loved us. [20](#)If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. [21](#)And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.

Don't let someone define you. Its sad that people use religion to segregate, yet Jesus share the parable of the good Samaritan to show that we must love our neighbour who is from another people group.

In the book, Overcoming our Racism, Dr Derald Wing Sue defines racism as ***“any attitude, action or institutional structure or social policy that subordinates a person or group because of their colour.”***

People don't have to become like you in order for you to relate to them. E.g. Friend saying I am becoming more white to him.

Some people think you cant be a racist if you are black due to white people still having economic power. This argument is flawed. Anyone can be racist. There is institutional racism, structural racism and also racism at an individual level.

E.g. of guy at school that said he was racist toward a certain type of black person.

The way you deal with cycles of racism is through forgiveness and voluntary identificational repentance. If you keep making decisions based on skin colour you will perpetuate racism to the next generation. Our kids today will be confused and feeling a strong sense of injustice when they get many distinctions but still can't go to university in what they thought was their own country.

The biological myth

The biological arguments for racism increased after 1859. In the 1800s before Darwin, people spoke of ethnicity eg Irish race, English race. This changed after the 1859 publication of Darwin's origin of species by natural selection. This racist teaching emphasized that different “races” or groups evolved at different rates. I remember a well known pop star saying this about a black ex-boyfriend who had mistreated her: “It's ok, they are not as evolved.”

Eg Australian Aborigines were considered missing links between Ape like ancestors and the rest of mankind. The result of this is bad as it justifies mistreating people and abusing them.

Eg There was an African Pygmy displayed in a zoo alongside an orangutan. Congo Pygmies were once thought to be “small apelike, elfish creatures”.

We define people in a particular way in order to justify our oppression of them and hatred of them.

Ernst Haeckel, famous for popularizing the now-discredited idea that “[ontogeny recapitulates phylogeny](#),” stated:

At the lowest stage of human mental development are the Australians, some tribes of the Polynesians, and the Bushmen, Hottentots, and some of the Negro tribes. Nothing, however, is perhaps more remarkable in this respect, than that some of the wildest tribes in southern Asia and eastern Africa have no trace whatever of the first foundations of all human civilization, of family life, and marriage. They live together in herds, like apes.

A scientist at the Advancement of Science Convention in Atlanta stated, *"Race is a social construct derived mainly from perceptions conditioned by events of recorded history, and it has no basic biological reality."*

Nisbett et al. argue that crude brain size is unlikely to be a good measure of IQ; for example, brain size also differs between men and women, but without well-documented differences in IQ. At the same time newborn Black children have the same average brain size as Whites, suggesting that the difference in average size could be accounted for by differences in postnatal environment. Several factors that reduce brain size have been demonstrated to disproportionately affect Black children.[182]

Megan Gannon quotes that four scientists concluded that Racial categories are weak proxies for genetic diversity and need to be phased out

Svante Paabo: "What the study of complete genomes from different parts of the world has shown is that even between Africa and Europe, for example, there is not a single absolute genetic difference, meaning no single variant where all Africans have one variant and all Europeans another one, even when recent migration is disregarded," Pääbo told Live Science. "It is all a question of differences in how frequent different variants are on different continents and in different regions."

In one example that demonstrated genetic differences were not fixed along racial lines, the full genomes of James Watson and Craig Venter, two famous American scientists of European ancestry, were compared to that of a Korean scientist, Seong-Jin Kim. It turned out that Watson (who, ironically, became ostracized in the scientific community after making racist remarks) and Venter shared fewer variations in their genetic sequences than they each shared with Kim.

"If you make clinical predictions based on somebody's race, you're going to be wrong a good chunk of the time," Yudell told Live Science. In the paper, he and his colleagues used the example of cystic fibrosis, which is underdiagnosed in people of African ancestry because it is thought of as a "white" disease. (Cystic fibrosis is an inherited life threatening disease damaging lungs and digestive system).

Mindy Fullilove, a psychiatrist at Columbia University, thinks the changes proposed in the Science article are "badly needed." Fullilove noted that by some laws in the United States, people with one black ancestor of 32 might be called "black," but their 31 other ancestors are also important in influencing their health.

This is the case with so many South Africans that have been categorised as black but have just as much "white" in them. I think of how Jaedyn has ended up with blue eyes, and the implications of this.

Dr. Douglas C. Wallace, professor of molecular genetics at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, stated, "The criteria that people use for race are based entirely on external features that we are programmed to recognize."

Scientists admit today that biologically there is only one race of humans, homo sapiens sapiens. The difference between us are more cultural than racial.

Therefore it's better to speak of people groups and ethnicity rather than race. Jesus never categorised people racially. He spoke of nations and ethnic or cultural groups. The bible doesn't use the term race. Race is something that has been socially constructed and as a result has caused unnecessary division. When it comes to ethnos there are between 12000 and 24000 people groups

depending on how you categorise them. So there is the Cherokee nation and the Zulu Nation. In SA there would be about 12.

We all have one blood

Acts 17:26 From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

We were all created in God's image

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

If all men come from Adam and are created in God's image, how dare we create classes of human beings. All men and women were created for dominion.

The Bible speaks of ethnicity not race

Rev 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

Heaven is going to be very mixed. Start getting used to it.

Why do people look different?

So-called racial differences (eye colour, skin colour, eye shape) are not major or material. They account for 0.012% of human biological variation. If a white person is looking for a tissue match for an organ transplant the best match may come from a black person and vice versa.

Adam and Eve were probably mid brown so their kids could have ended up very dark or very light. Melanin determines skin colour and also eye colour and hair colour. Think of the variety you see in just one family. They share DNA yet the few genes determining colouring can cause great difference within a family.

Blue eyes are because of the thin layer of brown melanin and is due to the way the light scatters off it. In fact, scientists have discovered that there is one major pigment, called melanin, that produces our skin colour. There are two main forms of melanin: eumelanin (brown to black) and pheomelanin (red to yellow). These combine to give us the particular shade of skin that we have. In a sense we are all different shades of the same colour.

Melanin is produced by melanocytes, which are cells in the bottom layer of the epidermis. No matter what our shade of skin, we all have approximately the same concentration of melanocytes in our bodies. Melanocytes insert melanin into melanosomes, which transfer the melanin into other skin cells, which are capable of dividing (stem cells), primarily in the lowest layer of the epidermis. According to one expert,

The melanosomes (tiny melanin-packaging units) are slightly larger and more numerous per cell in dark-skinned than light skinned people. They also do not degrade as readily, and disperse into adjacent skin cells to a higher degree.

Geneticists have found that four to six genes, each with multiple alleles (or variations), control the amount and type of melanin produced. Because of this, a wide variety of skin shades exist. In fact,

it is quite easy for one couple to produce a wide range of skin shades in just one generation, as will be shown below.

Geneticists have found that if we were to take any two people from anywhere in the world, the basic genetic differences between these two people would typically be around 0.2 percent,¹ even if they came from the same people group.² “Racial” characteristics account for only about 6 percent of this 0.2 percent variation. That means that the “racial” genetic variation between human beings of different “race” is a mere 0.012 percent.

Source: answersingenesis.org (Ken Ham)

The American ABC news science page stated:

More and more scientists find that the differences that set us apart are cultural, not racial. Some even say that the word race should be abandoned because it’s meaningless. . . . We accept the idea of race because it’s a convenient way of putting people into broad categories, frequently to suppress them . . . the most hideous example is provided by Hitler’s Germany. . . . What the facts show is that there are differences among us, but they stem from culture, not race.

DNA determines eye shape. There is an extra layer of adipose tissue around the eyes (almond shaped eyes) for Oriental people. All people have this, some just have more or less.

Noah and the ark. In that time the barriers were not as strong as they are today because everyone spoke the same language until God scattered them at the tower of babel. So there would have been a lot of mixing with people that looked different. After the scattering people would have mixed more with their own language groups ended up more homogenous in terms of appearance. Sadly, in many homes to day people are more concerned about a child marrying from another “race” than whether the person is a Christian or not.

What does the bible say about Prejudice?

1. We must renew our minds

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

We have been programmed by the world to think racially.

2. We must show no favouritism

1 Tim 5:21 I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favouritism.

3. We must honour people who fear God than preferring people based on their colour.

Acts 10:28, 34-35

He said to them: “You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.

What laws are in your culture or family that cause you to not associate with certain groups?

Vs 34-35 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.

Do you now realise? Have you also got this revelation? I God doesn’t show favouritism then why do we?

Rom 10:12

For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

Calling on God is the great equalizer. Have you disqualified yourself? Have you disqualified others?

4. Prejudice is sin

James 2:4,9 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?.... But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. Sometimes there are demonically inspired laws in the land but there is also God's law.

5. Prejudice is a sign of blindness

1 John 2:11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

When you walk in the hatred you continuously justify, then you are deceived.

6. We must look at the heart not the external

1 Cor 12:13 For we were all baptized by[a] one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

1 Sam 16:7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

7. We must treat foreigners well

Exodus 22:21 Do not mistreat or oppress a foreigner, for you were foreigners in Egypt. God hates Xenophobia. It does not bring blessing to a nation.

Leviticus 19:33-34 33 “When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. 34 The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

To have foreigners working in your country is a sign of a blessed nation. Canada has many people taking refuge there and it is a nation doing well on many counts.