

**Date: June 7, 2020**

**Message: “A Biblical Response to Racism”**

**Text: Selected Verses**

This message is not about that one particular event in Minneapolis. I’m not making a judgment that the tragic, wrongful death of Mr. Floyd was racially motivated. I will leave that to God and to the court to decide. Regardless of the heart motivations behind what Officer Chauvin did, the fact is that the death of a black man at the hands of a white man has once again put a spotlight on the issue of racism in our country.

Racism, to larger and lesser degrees, is still a real evil in our world and it is not a new evil. It has infested our world for thousands of years and it affects every race on the planet.

Basic definition: Racism is an explicit or implicit feeling or belief or practice that values one race over other races or devalues one race beneath others. It is attributing to one race intrinsic superiority or valuing it above another and then treating others as undesirable or evil.

God does not show partiality or favoritism, and neither should we. It is sin!

Deut. 10:17; Rom.2:11; Jms. 2:1-10; Jn.13:34; Matt. 25:40,45; Acts 10:34; Eph. 6:9

Racism is a universal problem. People of all ethnicities are susceptible to the sinful thoughts and actions of racism because it is part of our depraved spiritual DNA as fallen sinners of every color.

How should you and I as children of God respond to racism?

**I. We should be \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_ by racism whenever or wherever it occurs**

Despite the occasions when people of every color are falsely accused of being racists, it doesn’t erase the reality that there are still real attitudes and actions of racism in our world. And God hates it and is grieved by it!

Sin should sadden us because all sin saddens God (Rom. 12:15b; Col. 3:12-14).

We should defend and protect people of all nationalities who are unjustly treated or are the victims of prejudice and hate.

Racist acts and attitudes should sadden us, but they shouldn’t shock us because we live in a fallen world populated by nothing but fallen, depraved human beings—every one of us!

## II. We must understand the root \_\_\_\_\_ and embrace the root \_\_\_\_\_ for racism

The reality of Romans 3:23—“*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*”—is the *root* problem in my life, and in your life, and in our world!

God created people to glorify Him, and all of us born in sin come out of the womb in rebellion against Him. We naturally live for the glory of self, not the glory of God, and certainly not for the good of others whom we arrogantly esteem ourselves as being better than.

Racism, prejudice, discrimination, injustice, hate, violence, revenge, vandalism, looting, and 10,000 other sins are just the rotten fruits of rotten roots of the sinful depravity of all human beings.

“Since Satan’s age-long *modus operandi* is lying and killing, can we be surprised if he works through all the social institutions of this world to cultivate misunderstanding, distrust, bias, partiality, suspicion, ill-will, antagonism, hostility, murder, pogroms, lynchings, ethnic cleansing, holocaust, genocide? The persistence, the pervasiveness, and the global scope of racist horrors and ethnic strife bear witness to a kind of evil that fits the biblical picture of supernatural deceit and death.” (John Piper) (1 Jn. 5:19; Rev. 12:9; Jn. 8:44; 14:30; 2 Cor. 4:4)

Only Jesus Christ can free us from the power and penalty of the root problem of racism—sin! Only Jesus Christ can reconcile us to God and reconcile us to other people—of every ethnicity. We cannot be at peace with God and others without Jesus Christ reigning in our hearts.

2 Cor. 5:17-19; Eph. 2:14-18; Gal. 3:27-28

“The cross is God’s answer to racial discrimination, segregation, antisemitism, bigotry, and every form of strife between men. We have been reconciled to God and to each other in the cross.” (H.B. Charles; [gracechurch.org](http://gracechurch.org), 2020 Shepherd’s Conference)

### **Practical Biblical Advice**

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Jms. 1:19-20; Col. 4:6; Prov. 15:1; Psalms 139:23-24; 2 Cor. 5:20; Jn. 16:33; Psalm 34:11-14; Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:17-21; Matt. 22:36-40; Psalm 103:19.