

Iron Sharpens Iron
Biblical Perspective on Racism
March 2024

Scripture

Galatians 3:28-29 | *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

Overview/Definition

Racism | characterized by or showing prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism against a person or people on a basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Racism is Offensive to God

Genesis 1:26 | And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

James 3:9 | Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

- Practicing racism is mocking God. Proverbs
- Exodus 22:21
- Leviticus 19:34
- Deuteronomy 23:7
- Acts 10 – Peter needed a direct vision from God before he realized it was ok to associate with a Roman Centurion – Peter’s vision helped him get past this racism

Racism is a form of justification.

- Justification has to do with a person proving that they have significance.
- People justify themselves through their work and money.
- People justify themselves through their upbringing and education.
- People justify themselves through their race and heritage.

Scriptures

- Matthew 3:9 |
- Philippians 3:5, 8 |
- Galatians 2:15-16 | Jesus set him free from self-justification by justifying us through his death.

Jesus fought the idea of racism

Ephesians 2:14

- Two groups – Jews and Gentiles
- Jesus brought peace between these two (often-opposed) groups by making them one people.
- Church = The people of God where Jews and Gentiles are one.
- Jesus’ solution to racism - create one church.

How we handle racism - Matt 5:44; Luke 6:28; Romans 12:14