

5 Reasons Racism is Ridiculous

- Part Two -

By Eric Lyons

#4—Love is Not Racist

Whereas racism is fueled by earthly ignorance and hate, the Christian is filled with the fruit of Heaven's Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). The child of God is directed by an omniscient, omni-benevolent Father Who expects His children to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). To the Philippians Paul wrote, "And this I pray, **that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment**, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God" (1:9-11, emp. added).

In two of the more challenging sections of Scripture, Paul wrote: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth" (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV). "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another.... Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.... Repay no one evil for evil.... If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Romans 12:9-18).

No Christian can be a racist, and any racist who claims to be a Christian is, in truth, a liar. As the apostle John explained, "If someone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:20-21).

"[W]hatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no harm to its neighbor [regardless of his or her color and ethnicity—EL]. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:9-10, NIV).

#5—Jesus is EVERYONE'S Savior

In one of the earliest Messianic prophecies, God promised Abraham that it would be through One of his descendants that "**all** the nations" and "**all** the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Genesis 22:18; 12:3, emp. added). It certainly was an honor for Abraham's family to be chosen as the one through whom the Savior of the world would come, but Jesus did not come only to save the Jews. God did not enact a plan of salvation to save one particular color of people. He did not send Jesus to take away the sins of a particular ethnic group or nation. Jesus is the answer to the whole world's sin problem; He is "the Savior of the world" (1 John 4:14). "*For God so loved **the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever** believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that **the world** through Him might be saved*" (John 3:16-17, emp. added).

"God...desires **all** men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4, emp. added). For this reason, "repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to **all nations**" (Luke 24:47, emp. added)—to people of all colors, in all cultures, in whatever countries.

The Gospel "is the power of God to salvation for **everyone** who believes" (Romans 1:16, emp. added). And when individuals in the world "obey the Gospel" (2 Thessalonians 1:8; see Lyons and Butt, n.d.) and are added to the Lord's Church by God Himself (Acts 2:47), we **all** become **one** in Christ Jesus. "There is neither Jew nor

Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:29).

Conclusion

I do not claim to be an expert on race relations, but I know that some people genuinely struggle with the sin of racism. Some struggle with being the recipients of racism, which in turn may cause them to be tempted to react in racist ways. Others struggle with cowardly silence as they tolerate the sin of racism in their homes, churches, schools, businesses, and communities. Still others seem so preoccupied with advancing their own racial agenda that they appear to hastily interpret most everything as a racial problem, when most things are not.

Jesus once taught the hypocrites of His day, saying, “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24). May God help us to see as He sees: “*for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart*” (1 Samuel 16:7). What a better world this would be if everyone realized the foolishness of judging a book by its cover. Racism really is ridiculous.