

RACISM “A dirty word!”

Ethnic Cleansing Video Game (2002) *The most politically incorrect game ever made. Run through the ghetto blasting away various blacks and spics in an attempt to gain entrance to the subway system, where the Jews have hidden to avoid the carnage. Then, if YOU'RE lucky.... you can blow away Jews as they scream "Oy Vey!" on your way to their command centre.*

"I believe this game is going to be extremely popular - and it will touch the hearts of thousands of White people because it's not intellectual - it's entertainment. Every young elementary school kid who plays this game will have visions of killing Ariel Sharon while sitting in class! When their history teacher asks if they've ever heard of Israel or Ariel Sharon, the White kids certainly will have!"

What is Ethnic Cleansing?

“The practice of forcibly removing (or even killing) a group of people from an area so that the people who remain all belong to the same group - so that, the area is 'ethnically pure'.”

Ethnic cleansing is Racism taken to the extreme!

What is Racism?

“The belief that human races have distinctive characteristics which determine their respective cultures, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule or dominate others.”

“Racism is the offensive or aggressive behaviour to members of another race stemming from such a belief.”

In Bible times it was common for Jewish men to pray in the morning of each new day, “Lord, I thank You that I am not a gentile, a slave or a woman”.

Galatians 3:28 *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Acts 10:34-35 *Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right."*

From God's perspective; no one is more privileged or superior to anyone else.

When we allow our "*differences*" to separate us and prevent us from reaching certain people groups with the good news of Jesus' hope then we are opposing God not assisting Him!

It is our natural inclination to feel uncomfortable around people who are '*different*' than us, but to gravitate toward those who are similar to us.

God's clear intention was that the Church be multicultural.

The challenge for every local church is to be inclusive of every race and colour that is represented in its community.

Emphasizing one ethnic group makes the church irrelevant to other people groups.

Such a church only builds walls as it will get deeper and deeper into its own culture instead of building bridges to draw the rest of the community.

God's intention and plan is for the local church to be multi-cultural.

Australian multiculturalism is a term, which recognises and celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It accepts and respects the right of all Australians to express and share their individual cultural heritage within the basic structures and values of Australian democracy.

Our society and the Church needs to cry out loud against Prejudice, Discrimination, Segregation and Racism.

Prejudice judges a man's character by his outward appearance.

Discrimination deprives a person of the right to have.

Segregation deprives a person of the right to belong.

Stereotyping deprives a person of the right to be.

Racism deprives a person of the right to birth.

It seems ironic that the worst differences between races are exaggerated when brown and pink people are labelled "*black and white.*"

Those very terms themselves begin to polarize our thinking between two extremes. They emphasize the differences in people, rather than the similarities.

Stereotyping leads to prejudice.

Stereotyping is a lazy way of lumping together all of those who come from a certain class, or a certain race, and attributing to each individual the same characteristics of the group.

Although something may generally be true of a group, it is not specifically true of each person in that group.

Such stereotypes as “*Blondes are all dizzy,*” “*Teenagers are all rebellious,*” “*All men are pigs,*” do not demonstrate our calculated observations.

Rather they show our laziness and our blind acceptance of some generalization as being the rule.

The Bible says that those who judge according to outward appearances are foolish - they do not see people the way God sees them!

1 Samuel 16:7 *For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.*

Prejudice is ugly. It divides, isolates, and ostracizes people.

Prejudice is the mark of an ignorant mind that perceives itself to be enlightened.

Prejudice thinks it understands people and their actions before acquiring any actual first-hand knowledge, or before consulting with all the facts. Prejudice has its root in ignorance, and leads to further ignorance.

Prejudice is a perception problem.

...Racial Prejudice

Racism is not new. It was a problem in Biblical times.
(John 1:46; 4:9; 8:48; Acts 22:21-23).

Racism uses crude descriptions of people.

They are offensive and demeaning. Racists use ugly slurs against others.

Ephesians 4:29 *Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers.*

C) Racism Is A Small Minded Man's Way Of Elevating Himself.

Such affronts are the attempts of some people to elevate themselves, by putting down and stepping on others (Philippians 2:3-4).

D) Racism Is Arrogant And Foolhardy.

One race cannot be better than another because all of us have sprung from the same ancestors. We are all of one blood, "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their habitation." (Acts 17:26).

E) Racism Is A Sin Of Pride.

One considers himself to be better than someone else because of nothing more than a genetic combination of chromosomes, "For if anyone thinks himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself." (Galatians 6:3).

God must consider racism an important sin to overcome, because He performed a notable miracle to dispel the Jewish prejudice against the Gentiles. Peter's first hint came with his vision of the animals descending from heaven upon a great sheet. The conclusion of all of those events (Acts 10:1-23) was unmistakable, "God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean... In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him." (Acts 10:28,34-35).

...Conclusion

Prejudice will blind us to the truth at best, and cause us to believe a lie at worst.

Race makes no difference to God. He shows no favouritism to any race that assumes it is superior to another. And He shows no partiality to a people group that has been mistreated.

Did you know that God is coloured blind!

Galatians 3:28 *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.*

The question that I pose for us tonight is simply *“are we colour blind too?”*