

RACISM IN THE HUMAN FAMILY

Introduction

There is diversity among the human beings God created to inhabit the earth. That diversity is usually observed in skin, eye, and hair color, as well as differences in other physical characteristics. As well, there is divergent thought about how or whether we classify humans by race, assumed to be associated mostly with skin color. Debate exists today about how these differing factors impact society, with some believing race is a social (societal) construct, and others believing society and culture derive from race and biology.

Scientific View of Race

Prior to 1984, three major human races were recognized by anthropologists – Caucasian, Negroid, and Mongolian. Since 1984, four races (Caucasian/White, Negroid/Black, Mongoloid/Asian, and Australoid)¹ have become more generally accepted. Among anthropologists and other scientists, however, there still exists disagreement about the exact number of races and how they are defined. **Some scientists do not believe that race even exists.**

You may want to explore the differences in scientific beliefs on race found in some of the other resources listed at the end of this article. As you do, you may find those differences confusing, making it difficult, if not impossible, to formulate what is truth. Race ends up being subjective, an issue that has yet to be fully understood and agreed upon by the scientific community. What is easier to understand is the biblical perspective.

Biblical View of Race

The Bible teaches that God created a man (male) and a woman (female), the first human beings (**Genesis 1-2**). Beyond human creation in the Genesis account, nothing about a *racial* component of humans is mentioned. In fact, **the word *race* is nowhere to be found in the biblical narrative.**

However, there is mention of how, through the sin of pride, *language* differences and the scattering of the human population all over the earth came to be (**Genesis 11:1-9**).

But the actual classifications of people in the Bible are stated in broader terms like tribes, people, and nations. In the amazing vision recorded in Revelation, John saw God's redeemed human family and other created beings in the heavenly places – “a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb” (**Revelation 7:9**). With no mention of race, how then did the different skin colors of the human population we see today come to be?

The answer lies in the amazingly complex genetics God built into human DNA. The genes of Adam and Eve, and later the family of Noah after the flood (**Genesis 6-8**), contained the abundance of human diversity that would eventually exist. Though Adam and Eve and Noah's family had their own particular physical traits, you could not look at them and see all the traits their genes would ultimately produce – other skin, eye, and hair colors, nor others.

We know, today, that humans have dominant and recessive genes that control human traits. While some recessive genes may become latent in the presence of dominant genes, suppressing certain physical traits including skin color, those recessive genes ultimately were released from latency, bringing different skin colors and other traits to life. Procreation by humans around the world resulted in the wonderful diverse human family God engineered. We recommend reading a fascinating article on Adam and Eve's chromosomes found at gotquestions.com.²

God's View of Humanity

In the eyes of God, there is only *one* race – the human race. It is His creation and is quite diverse, by design. God designed genetics, what we now know as the **human genome**, described by Britannica as

All of the approximately three billion base pairs of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) that make up the entire set of chromosomes of the human organism. The human genome includes the coding regions of DNA, which encode all the genes (between 20,000 and 25,000) of the human organism, as well as the noncoding regions of DNA, which do not encode any genes. By 2003 the DNA sequence of the entire human genome was known.³

God set in motion the diversity that we now see in the human family, and **He loves every person equally**. God does not make distinction, nor should we, in extending love to all, seen clearly in these biblical passages:

"For there is *no respect of persons with God*" (Romans 2:11, KJV).

When Peter witnessed the outpouring of God's Spirit on Gentiles, he said "I now realize how true it is that *God does not show favoritism* but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right" (Acts 10:34-35, NIV).

"And if ye call on the Father, who *without respect of persons* judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear" (1 Peter 1:17, KJV).

"Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, *nor respect of persons . . .*" (2 Chronicles 19:7, KJV).

The greatness of God's love for all persons was clearly demonstrated when He came to earth in the person of Jesus to break the bondage of sin and allow everyone, who is willing, to have life and an eternal relationship with Him. "For God so loved the *world* that he gave his one and only Son, that *whoever* believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This great act of love on God's part was extended to the whole human family, regardless of skin color or any other human trait. God loves every human being – black, white, brown, red, yellow, or any other shade in between! And God expects us to love them as well.

Racism

Unfortunately, not all persons share God's love for the whole human family. Distrust, animosity, even hatred, can be found in the hearts of many with respect to the traits or differences in others, especially skin color. The term for this sinful human perspective of others is known as *racism*, and is defined by [The American Heritage Dictionary](#) as:

1. The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others.
2. Discrimination or prejudice based on race.

Many are propagating the idea that racism is a Caucasian or 'white' problem. Indeed, there are white people (we know as Caucasian) who are racists, who have no respect for persons of other skin colors, especially black, and who deem themselves superior.

But it is delusional to think it is only a 'white' problem. There are black people in the world today who are racists and have little or no respect for persons who are white. Pick persons of any color skin and you will find some in their ranks who have no love for persons whose skin color is different from theirs, some deeming themselves superior. **All of them are racist.**

We are called to love *all* persons the same way God loves them all – with no regard to skin color, nationality, language, culture, or anything else that makes them different from us. God's Word says that we are to love our spouses, children, grandchildren, other family members, neighbors, and foreigners . . . even our enemies. Here are few biblical references to consider:

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” **(John 15:12-13).**

“Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love . . . since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” **(1 John 4:7-8, 11).**

“If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen” **(1 John 4:20).**

“But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” **(Luke 6:35-36).**

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves” **(Romans 12:9-10).**

"To have respect of persons is not good" **(Proverbs 28:21, KJV).**

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we

ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth” (1 John 3:16-18).

Closing Thoughts

God created a diverse human family. It was engineered to be that way.

Born again, redeemed children of God are to love everyone in the human family the way God does. There is no room for animosity or hatred in your heart toward anyone of another skin color or possessing other traits, nor for their nationality or other diverse characteristics. If you harbor any, please repent of it and turn away from the racism that may separate you from the presence of God and keep you from heaven that is fashioned for those with the love of Jesus Christ in their hearts.

This is an introduction on the subject of **Racism in the Human Family**. Here are a few other resources you may wish to explore:

¹ [How Many Races Are There in the World? \(reference.com\)](#)

² [What are Y-Chromosomal Adam and Mitochondrial Eve? | GotQuestions.org](#)

³ [Human genome | Britannica](#)

[A Detailed List of Human Races That is Informative and Revealing - Biology Wise](#)

[What Are the Types of Human Races? \(reference.com\)](#)

[World Maps: Races of the World \(humanbiologicaldiversity.com\)](#)

[Race of the World Population - Infogram](#)

[30 Bible verses about God's call to love others — World Vision Advocacy](#)