

## RACE, CULTURE, AND POLITICS

(Col. 3:9-13)

### Introduction:

1. To listen to today's talking heads you would think we had stepped back into the 1860s or 1960s. All this talk about racism and diversity is confusing and disheartening. As Christians we must educate ourselves in the truth so that we can be the arbiters of truth in a world operating so often on misinformation and false narratives.
2. Let us begin our education by considering race, culture, and politics from a biblical viewpoint. As we

### Discussion:

#### I. Race.

- A. One Race Created in God's image (Gen. 1:26, 27).
  1. Notice how dictionary.com defines race with regards to anthropology, "A. (no longer in technical use) any of the traditional divisions of humankind, the commonest being the Caucasian, Mongoloid, and Negro, characterized by supposedly distinctive and universal physical characteristics. B. an arbitrary classification of modern humans, sometimes, especially formerly, based on any or a combination of various physical characteristics, as skin color, facial form, or eye shape, and now frequently based on such genetic markers as blood groups. C. a socially constructed category of identification based on physical characteristics, ancestry, historical affiliation, or shared culture:
  2. There is only the "human race" created in God's image. Everything else is a human construct meant to divide the race.
- B. There is variation within a genome that through selective breeding or isolation can become dominant in groups (Consider the descendants of Noah = red and yellow, black and white they are precious in God's sight). Ham as the "father" of Africa is not mentioned in the Bible as being darker of skin than his brothers, but probably was (but not necessarily). Interesting how the Bible does not speak at all concerning skin color as a means of differentiating individuals. David and Esau had reddish complexions.
- C. There are many ethnicities = a social group that shares a common and distinctive culture, religion, language, or the like-Dictionary.com. God Himself had a hand in creating the different ethnicities (Gen. 11).
- D. The idea that the human race is comprised of different races is false (Col. 3:11). The idea that one ethnicity of the human race is superior to another has nothing to do with genetics but culture/religion. All that a lesser amount of melanin in your skin makes you better at is getting sunburned!

#### II. Culture.

- A. Culture is defined by Dictionary.com as the behaviors and beliefs characteristic of a particular social, ethnic, or age group.
  1. The human race has developed many cultures based on religion, language, geography.
  2. America itself has many different subcultures via region, state, county, church, family.
  3. Generational cultures exist as well.
- B. Culture is simply what is commonly held, believed, sought by a group of people.
- C. God has instituted only one acceptable culture; one obedient to His revealed will. All other factors are considered (and are) immaterial/irrelevant (Rom. 9:24-26; Eph. 2:19; 1 Pet. 2:9; John 18:36).

#### III. Politics.

- A. Politics is tied to government even by definition. It refers to both the system of government as well as the means of obtaining the power of Government.
- B. The existence of Governments is related to the nature of man. Many believe that Government is a necessary evil of society, but that is not true. Government is a necessity because of man's

capability and propensity for evil. Government's main purpose is to punish the wicked and reward the righteous (1 Pet 2:9-14; cp. Rom. 13:1-7; Gal. 6:10; Matt. 5:13-16; Rom. 15:2).

- C. Governments differ because they are a reflection of different cultures. Governments should not be judged to be good or bad by their style/system, but by their faithfulness to God's will.
- D. Governments also serve as preservers of their culture or as transformers of culture (depending on the people).
- E. Politics, in and of itself, is not good or bad. They do reflect the culture/people engaged in them.

#### IV. Truth.

- A. God created one race. Superiority is God's alone: God is sovereign and we are servants.
- B. God has commanded only one culture that can flourish in and contribute to all others.
- C. God has certified government to serve all people and especially His people. Ultimately God alone is King; no options.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. As our Lord said, knowledge of THE Truth will set us free. Knowing and living the truth will set us free from the foolishness of racism, bigotry, and toxic politics.
- 2. Truly, in Christ there is neither male, female, Jew, Greek, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or freeman (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:11).
- 3. Invitation.

#### **MORE ON "RACE, CULTURE, AND POLITICS"**

- 1. Just as the Lord God is one, so too His children. All humans alive today are descendants of Noah and his wife who lived approximately 4500 years ago. This is plenty of time to allow for the slight variations we see today (mostly skin pigmentation, eyelid shape, and hair). This is especially possible considering the scattering after the tower of Babel to different geographic locals. Notice there are no systemic differences, but rather sensitivities specific to different groups (Asian-alcohol; African-sickle cell; northern European-MS).
- 2. Human cultures, since they are derived from our beliefs (ideas) and behaviors (acting on those thoughts), are various and to be judged by how they correspond to God (Rom. 1:20ff). Humanist cultures are evil because their morals are artificial and they deny the reality of man's existence (Matt. 16:26). The greatness of the United States of America is not a result of the genetic makeup of its people, but the Christian basis of its values and governing principles.
- 3. Xenophobia is a real thing and there is a positive aspect to it (like prejudice), but it is to be overcome as with all of our fears (1 John 4:16-21).
- 4. The relationship between God's people and government.
  - Submission with understanding = Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Pet. 2:9-14 with the caveats of Acts 5:29 and Matt. 14:3, 4.
  - We are to influence the world as salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16). How better to achieve this than as leaders?
  - If we do not do the first we cannot effectively do the second.
- 5. Understand that racial/cultural/political strife is not an inherent thing, but rather tools used by groups to control other groups. Remember that perception is NOT reality. And, never forget God.