

“Justice And Race”

Luke 10:25-37

Sermon Series: “True Justice In An Unjust World”

Introduction: Tim Keller has written, “Next to sex and gender, the subject of race is the most discussed topic in our culture today. Storms of rhetoric and conflict swirl around it every day in politics, the arts, business, the media, and especially social media. It is natural and right for Christians to speak in these conversations out of their personal experience, but since we believe that the Bible has the right to interpret our experience and to critique every culture, we must look to it as our final authority.” Or as Tony Evans says in a more blunt sort of way, “There’s two answers to every question: God’s answer and the wrong answer.” Therefore, we need God’s answer to the question of race, and we find God’s answer in His Word. Here is what Jesus had to say on the subject.

1. Everybody is our neighbor so everybody is to be loved. This is very clearly the point that Jesus is making in the Parable of the Good Samaritan. The Jews and Samaritans hated each other so it is amazing that Jesus made the Samaritan the hero of the story. He is saying that we are to love all people and not mistreat anybody, particularly based on outward characteristics. As Rick Warren says, “Racism is not a skin problem but a sin problem.” Here are nine other biblical truths that demonstrate that racism is a sin.

Biblical Reasons That Racism Is Sin

A. We are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-28). Tim Keller says that the Triune God is “unity in diversity and diversity in unity” so humanity is designed to be the same way as a reflection of Him.

B. We are one race (Acts 17:26).

C. We cannot love God without loving our brothers (1 John 4:20).

D. The example of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-10).

E. The Golden Rule of doing unto others as we would have them do unto us (Matthew 7:12).

F. It is a sin to show partiality (James 2:1-4).

G. The reconciliation brought about by the cross of Christ (Ephesians 2:11-18).

H. The nature of the church on earth (Ephesians 2:19-22).

I. The eternal makeup of the church in heaven (Revelation 7:9-10).

2. Love is expressed by sacrificial action. The Jewish religious leaders walked on by the wounded man. The Samaritan got involved at a cost to himself. He expressed his compassion by action. The lawyer said the Samaritan showed the man mercy, and Jesus told him (and us by extension) to “go and do likewise.” Seeing everybody as our neighbor eliminate racist beliefs. Loving everyone as our neighbor eliminates racists actions. These two things go together.

3. This love comes from a heart changed by Jesus. The Law conclusively demonstrates to us that we have failed to love God supremely and completely and have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves. The lawyer’s attempt to justify himself demonstrates this, as even a lawyer cannot come before the face of Jesus with a defense that will earn an acquittal from the Righteous Judge who sees and knows all. The ultimate picture of this passage is not moralism that says go and be more loving but it is that Jesus is the Ultimate Good Samaritan who loved us so much that He came and sacrificially paid the price of dying for our sins. Racism is a gospel issue (Galatians 2: 11-16).

Conclusion: Let Jesus rescue you from the ditches that life and sin have gotten you in. Let’s repent of any prejudices in our hearts and minds, racial or otherwise. Let’s choose to let the love of Jesus flow through us to all people.