



Date 07/25/2021

*Healthy Church Series*

**The Bible, Not Babel, on Race**

**Jemar Tisby**, President of Reformed African American Network.

Outline on his Biblical Theology of Race

<https://byfaithonline.com/a-theology-of-race/>

Today's definitions:

- **Ethnicity** - deeper factors; culture, language, country of origin, family line.
- **Race** – external, physical appearance.

Bible Definitions, usage of “race.”

- One Race:
  - **Acts 17:26-27** – one man → all humanity
  - = “Human Race” – same species, Human DNA.
- Race of the redeemed:
  - **1 Peter 2:9** – chosen race, holy nation...
  - = purely spiritual distinction

**The Bible, not Babel, on Race**

**Genesis 1:27** Imago Dei (image of God)

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over the creatures that move along the ground.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

***Every single human bears the image of God!***

**Genesis 3:15** – enmity between woman’s offspring and the serpent’s

**Genesis 12:1-3** – all peoples on the earth will be blessed through you.

**Isaiah 2:2** - All the nations will flow to the mountain of the Lord.

**Luke 2:32** - a light for revelation to the gentiles, and glory to Israel.

**Matt 4:16** - people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light...

**Matt 28:18-20** – all nations

**Acts 1:8** - Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

**Ephesians 2:14-16** - Broken down in his body the dividing wall of hostility...

**Revelation 5:9** - Every tribe, language, people, nation.

**Revelation 7:9** – every nation, tribe, people, language

### **A Theology of Race**

Every human is created in God’s image and bears His image. Therefore, every human being, regardless of ethnicity or race, has intrinsic worth, and value. Since the beginning, God’s plan has been to reach every person so that all the redeemed may be gathered in His eternal kingdom. Christ’s holy Church is to be the earthly example and messenger of God plan.

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**The Bible, Not Babel, on Race**

**Opening**

I recently watched an extraordinary talk by **Dr. Tony Evans**. He was discussing current events, including how Critical Race Theory is splitting the church and denominations. He said the reason racial issues are splitting the church is because the Church did not have an already-established Theology of Race. (eschatology, ecclesiology, soteriology, Christology, pneumatology...) (Karate, kendo, judo, and 5 other Japanese words) If churches and denominations had a clear theology of Race already established, church people would not be so confused.

Although the issue of race was clear in my mind, I had to admit that I never spoke on a Theology of Race.

I don't think this is an issue in our church, but before it becomes an issue I want to speak on this.

**Transition**

Handouts, notes pages.

As I've studied the topic of racism, I find that the views on race are one big jumble of scattered and changing definitions, deeply entrenched feelings, lots of presuppositions, logical fallacies, useful and useless ideas, and more. There is a lot of **Babble** out there.

It's virtually impossible to understand the thinking behind the rhetoric.

This is not new. Since the **Tower of Babel** where God confused the languages, disagreements and arguments over words and ideas has been normal for us human.

To cut through the Babel on Race, we must...

Consult **The BIBLE, Not Babel, on Race**

### **Body**

**Jemar Tisby**, President of Reformed African American Network.

Had an excellent outline on his Biblical Theology of Race

<https://byfaithonline.com/a-theology-of-race/>

The Bible speaks to every issue of life, including race.

In the Bible God reveals that He has always had a plan for a diversity of people.

A few definitions:

Ethnicity and Race are not the same things.

- **Ethnicity** - deeper factors; culture, language, country of origin, family line.
- **Race** – external, physical appearance.

The Bible, however, speaks about race in only two specific ways.

#### ○ **One Race:**

- **Acts 17:26-27** – From one man, he made all kinds of humans.
- **= Human Race** – same species, Human DNA.

#### ○ **“Race” of the redeemed:**

- **1 Peter 2:9** – chosen race, holy nation...
- = **Spiritual distinction**

Every Human is part of the human race. Believers are all part of the chosen race of the redeemed.

Today's usage of "Race": distinctions between people groups

Bible cultures uses lots and lots of Ethnic distinctions –

Where you're from – geography, language, diet

Who you're from - family of origin, forefathers

Babylonians, Canaanites, Amalekites, Jews, Greeks, Egyptians.

The world of the Bible is very diverse and multi-ethnic.

Yet, nothing in the Bible says that one group is better than another in an ontological (being) way. Not one group is said to be inherently better than another.

Imago Dei – Image of God

**Genesis 1:27**

<sup>26</sup>Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over the creatures that move along the ground."

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

**All Humans bear the image of God**

→ **All** people throughout all time...

- have equal inherent dignity, worth, value to God.

- Regardless of Ethnicity or Race (physical appearance)
  - ➔ Male, female,
  - ➔ geographic location, looks, short/tall,
  - ➔ red, yellow, black, white, green, blue, orange, taupe
  - ➔ B.O., Bad breath, 20/20 vision, blind
  - ➔ preborn
  - ➔ Intellect, deformity, well/sick, strong/weak, short/tall
  - ➔ Christian, Non-Christian.
- The goal for us as those who claim to desire God, is to re-align our ways to His ways.  
Wherever you may have a prejudice it calls for realignment.

The absence of God referring to racial features -external physical appearances - as a basis upon which to judge people may tempt us to think that it's okay to judge by appearances. That would be wrong. The absence of God referring to racial features – external physical appearances – means we are not to judge that way.

So, on to a ...

### **Theology of Race**

God's plan from the very beginning was inclusion of His diverse people.

### **Genesis 3:15**

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Looks forward to a day when a savior will overcome the author of sin.

➔ No hint that this is for a particular people group.

### **Genesis 12:1-3**

“I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who curse you. In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

➔ The scope of God’s planned blessing is All Humanity.

➔ Every Ethnicity, every Race (physical appearance)

### **Isaiah 2:2**

It shall come to pass in the latter days  
that the mountain of the house of the Lord  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be lifted up above the hills;  
and all the nations shall flow to it,

➔ God’s plan is for all people groups

### **Luke 2:32**

Simeon says, the child is a light for revelation to the gentiles, as well as glory to Israel.

➔ God’s plan is for all people groups.

### **Matt 4:16**

the people dwelling in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned.”

➔ God’s plan is for all people groups

### **Matt 28:18-20**

Go and make disciples of all nations

➔ God's plan is for \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Acts 1:8**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

➔ God's plan is for \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Ephesians 2:14-16**

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

### **Revelation 5:9**

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”

➔ God's plan is for \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Revelation 7:**



After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribes, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.

➔ Gods' plan is for \_\_\_\_ \_

This eternal plan is the **direction** of the Church of Jesus Christ!  
We do not take our cues from a Babel world without direction.

We, the Church, are given God's grand plan for All Humanity:

- ➔ All Ethnicities (cultures, languages, geographies)
- ➔ All Races (appearances)

The World is in the *state of Babel*, confused, divided, tearing down.  
The Church, however, follows **the Bible, not Babel on Race**

### **A Theology of Race**

Every human is created in God's image and bears His image. Therefore, every human being, regardless of ethnicity or race, has intrinsic worth, and value. Since the beginning, God's plan has been to reach every person so that all the redeemed may be gathered in His eternal kingdom. Christ's holy Church is to be the earthly example and messenger of God plan. We honor, not disparage, all people, whether individuals or groups.

This is what WOCC represents.

If you need to cut this out and stick it on your mirror, do so.