

A LUTHERAN RESPONSE TO RACE, CULTURE AND ETHNICITY (RaCE) IN THE CHURCH



SESSION TWO

BIG IDEA #2:

***IS **RaCE** REAL OR A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT
AND WHAT RELEVANCE DOES IT HAVE IN
SOCIETY AND THE CHURCH?***

Last week we established a definition for *racism* as follows:

Racism – the view and subsequent practice, that not all humans are *quantitatively, equally human. That is to say, some humans are quantitatively superior and others, subsequently inferior. This belief is essentially based on one's racial and/or ethnic properties.

*quantitative refers to amount.

And as we pointed out, this definition is critical in its structure because it both identifies the real meaning, without modifiers, and protects other related terms.

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Bigot

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Prejudice

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Bigot

Prejudice

Affinity

According to Merriam-Webster:

Bigot - a person who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices; especially one who regards or treats the members of a group (such as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance

According to Merriam-Webster:

Prejudice – a preconceived judgment or opinion but not necessarily a concluded one

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Prejudice – a preconceived judgment or opinion but not necessarily a concluded one

Affinity – sympathy marked by community of interest commonly held by those with a biological relation involving resemblance in origins, appearance and cultural structure

So, if we add the word “RaCE” before each word as a modifier, we can identify their meaning within those contexts:

RaCE bigot

RaCE prejudice

RaCE affinity

This now enables us to see a real and valuable difference between these four (4) words which decline in meaning (*and actually ascend with the last*):

This now enables us to see a real and valuable difference between these four (4) words which decline in meaning (*and actually ascend with the last*) and should also have distinct and separate consequences with them:

Racism
RaCE bigotry
RaCE prejudice
RaCE affinity

Unfortunately, these days, the word *racism*, swallows the other three words altogether, both their definition and the assignment of implications and consequences.

Which brings us to a critical point. The definition of *racism (without any qualifiers)* is one which rarely fits because most people have come to accept the Bible's revelation that we are all equally human - *though it may be only because of the science of DNA proving it so.*

Thus, it is not the *quantitative* issue which plagues humanity rather, it is the issue of *qualitative* differences between humans which is so difficult to navigate. Likely this is because it is not a simple matter in numerous cases rather, a complex one.

The church has also been vexed with this issue as we will cover in Acts 6, in a few weeks.

*As a note, I am familiar with the distinction what people call *qualitative racism*. I am not ignoring it rather, because the word racism, is often an unmerited pejorative and carries with it such certain consequences and because qualitative racism often is murky in definition and questionable in assignment, I am avoiding its use but also because I believe it will be indirectly addressed, quite thoroughly.

Is RaCE or more specifically, race, a social construct?

That is to say, are the three (3) major racial groups and many heterogeneous-racial groups, established in real biological distinctions or are they the product of social divisions and social formations based on appearance?

*Before answering this question I have to ask,
on your behalf,* ♦ ♁ ☐ ⋈ ♦ ♦ ♁ ⋈ ♦

☐ ♦ ♁ ♦ ⋈ ☐ ■ ♦ ☐

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♈ ⋈ ☐ ♦ ♦ ☐ ● ☉ ♁ ♁ ♁ ✍

*Before answering this question I have to ask,
on your behalf, why is this question so
important in the first place?*

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I'll tell you why.

1. Because if you answer it incorrectly, everything that follows will be steered off course. This can have needlessly devastating results.

Personal Conflict – internal stress

Personal Conflict – internal stress

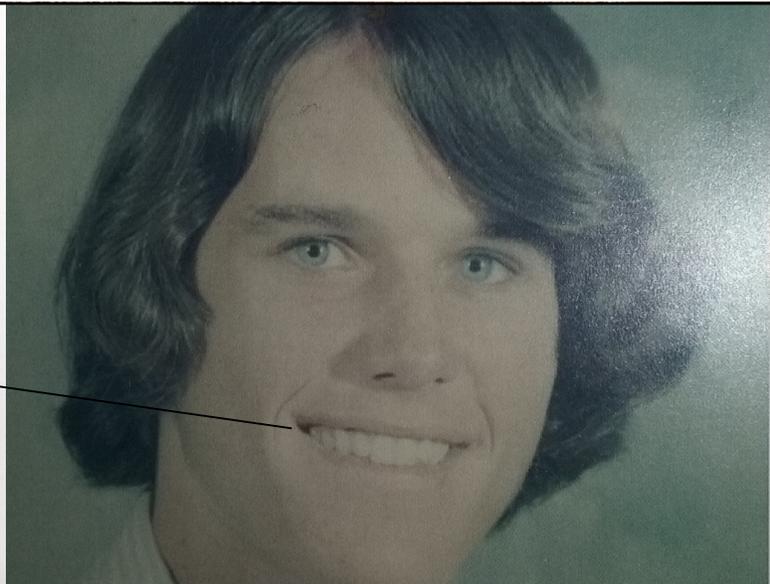
Social Conflict – social stress

Personal Conflict – internal stress

Social Conflict – social stress

Ecclesiastical Conflict – spiritual fellowship stress

Bro, who needs all this conflict?



2. God is truth. Today there is tremendous political/social pressure to hide truth. Thought policing is advocated by significant numbers. In fact, it is a crime to express certain thoughts in various countries. Considerate thought is one thing, denying reality is another which Christians may not do.

3. The world and the church, in many places, are getting this highly politicized issue wrong, *in part or in whole*. And while we do not proclaim infallibility, there are some fundamental errors which need remedied.

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1. *It is validly biologically based*

2. *It is a social construct -That is to say, racial classifications are based on appearance and not validly in biology*



Former ***New York Times*** science writer, Nicholas Wade, states in affirming the reality of racial biology (<http://time.com/91081/what-science-says-about-race-and-genetics/>):

“Analysis of genomes from around the world establishes that there is a biological basis for race, despite the official statements to the contrary of leading social science organizations. An illustration of the point is the fact that with mixed race populations, such as african americans, geneticists can now track along an individual’s genome, and assign each segment to an african or european ancestor, an exercise that would be impossible if race did not have some basis in biological reality.”

On the other hand, ***Answers in Genesis*** provides an opposing view, rejecting the biological construct of race (<https://answersingenesis.org/racism/are-there-really-different-races/>):

“However, *all* human beings in the world today are classified as *homo sapiens*. Scientists today admit that, biologically, there really is only one race of humans. For instance, a scientist at the advancement of science convention in atlanta stated, “race is a social construct derived mainly from perceptions conditioned by events of recorded history, and it has no basic biological reality.””

You may be disappointed in my response which is - this is as far as my treatment goes with the debate other than to say that I believe both sides are true. But to me, with respect to those two arguments and this class, at the end of the day, our original reality is never nullified which is...

Acts 17:26a:

From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth;

Further and more maybe more practically germane is the fact that neither position actually helps us resolve the *qualitative* issue seeing that they both accept the full and equal humanity of all people.

So let's explore some qualitative differences between major races and heterogeneous races and ethnicities.

Ready?



This class does not intend to solve the rather intricately complicated matter of RaCE. The video you watched, however, was to establish the reality of so many differences in race, culture and ethnicity around the world so that we may understand that it is not a naively binary (either/or) issue.

It is a byzantine challenge the individual and governments. For us, as a church, however, we must begin with a right foundation which is what these first two weeks have been.

While the Bible does not have a great deal to say about the left kingdom, particularly on this matter, it does contain some principles which we must explore. Of course it has a great deal for us to discover with respect to the right kingdom.

The Two Kingdoms Of Divine Regulation For Human Protection, Prosperity And Protection

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THE RIGHT/SPIRITUAL
KINGDOM



THE RIGHT/SPIRITUAL
KINGDOM



THE LEFT/CIVIL
KINGDOM



Next week we will enter into the final phase of the foundational portion of this series in looking at the left and right kingdoms as it relates to ***RaCE***.

END SESSION TWO