

June 7, 2020

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Selected Scriptures

“Biblical Principles for Racism and Injustice”

Intro: Prov. 29:18

1. Principles Related to God and Injustice:

- a. God is Just and He loves justice (Dt. 32:4; Ps. 9:7-8; 140:12; Rev. 20)
- b. God requires His children to be just (Micah 6:8; Ps. 31:8-9)

2. Principles Related to Man and Injustice:

- a. All people were created in the image of God and must be treated equally (Gen. 1:26; 5:1; 9:6; Mt. 25)
- b. All men are sinful – God’s image is marred (Rom. 3:10-23; James 4; Rom. 1:21-32)
- c. Sinful people do sinful, unjust things – especially when they believe they can get away with it (John 3:19-21; Jer. 17:9-11)
- d. Racism is sin

<p>“Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.” (Wikipedia)</p>
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- Personal experiences with racism and injustice
 - Racism in America against black people (slavery; Constitution; Jim Crow laws; Redlining laws)
 - Racism supported by churches / theologians (“Mark of Cain” – Gen. 4; “Curse of Ham” – Gen. 9)
 - Racism against Asians (1882 Chinese Exclusion Act; 1924 Asian Exclusion Act)
 - Racism is based on faulty presuppositions and faulty logic. There is only one race: human (Acts 17:26). We are all one color (based on melanin). Racial categories are artificial, not biblical or genetic.
- 3. Principles related to ministering to people at this time of racism & injustice**
- a. Listen compassionately. Be sensitive to people who have been hurt / offended. (Prov. 18:19)
 - b. Don’t make hasty judgments. (Prov. 18:13, 17)
 - c. Do all you can to promote justice here and now. (Eph. 4:25; Lk. 10; 18; Rev. 6:10; Acts 16:35-40)
 - d. Help people prepare for ultimate justice that is coming soon. (Rev. 20; Mt. 15:15-20; Gal. 5:16-21)
 - e. Practice reconciliation, unity, and love in the church! (Rev. 5:9; Eph. 2)

Discussion & Application:

1. How did Jesus summarize the Law? (see Mt. 22:35-40) In the story of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:25-37), who is our neighbor? How did the religious people in the story justify not helping their neighbor in need? What are some excuses we make for not loving our neighbors? How does this apply to the problems of racism and injustice in our society?
2. “Racism is the belief that groups of humans possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another.” (Wikipedia) What are some ways that racism (against black people specifically) has been practiced in the history of America? (Look up Dred Scott Decision; Jim Crow Laws; Redlining; Segregation...)
3. What is “race”? Is it a biblical or a genetic concept? Where did the concept of “race” come from? How many races are there (biblically & genetically)?
4. Why do we treat people differently just because they are: a lighter or darker color; from a different culture; speaking a different language...? What does the Bible call this? (See 1 Sam. 16:7; James 2) What did Paul do when Peter gave preference to Jews? (see Gal. 2) What was Paul fighting to protect?
5. Read Prov 18:13, 17. What are some principles we should apply from these verses when we hear a story (on the news; from a friend; in a counseling situation)? Are you ever prone to jump to quick conclusions about things? Has that tendency ever led to wrong conclusions? Has it ever produced more problems?
6. What does the word “justice” mean? Is God just? Does God desire justice in the world? Give biblical references. Who has the ultimate right to determine what is just and what isn’t? How might a discussion of “justice” naturally lead to a discussion of the gospel of Jesus Christ?
7. What role is the government supposed to play in justice? Law enforcement? What are our individual responsibilities when it comes to justice?
8. Is it okay for believers to participate in peaceful protests? (See Acts 16:35-40)
9. Some people think violent rioting, looting, and arson helps solve the problem. What are the reasons people give for doing these things? How would you answer a person who says, “It’s okay to loot a store because they have insurance that will cover it”? If someone has participated in violent protests, looting, or arson, how should they demonstrate true repentance?
10. Will we ever have perfect justice in the world before Jesus returns? If not, how are we supposed to handle the injustices we experience? See Luke 18:1-8; 1 Peter 2
11. If “race” is a social construct and not a biblical or genetic reality, what is the real problem with humans? Why do people hate, hurt and kill one another? See Mt. 15:15-20; Gal. 5:16-21; James 4:1-4.
12. Read Eph. 2 (yes, the whole chapter). What is God’s solution for sin? What is God’s provision for ALL of us to be reconciled to God and to one another? What can we do in our church to demonstrate to the world that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for ALL people and that ALL are equal in Jesus?
13. Pray and ask the Lord to uproot any prejudice in your heart and in our church. Pray for unity and love in our church. Pray for wisdom for our government leaders and protection for our law enforcement & other first responders. Pray for justice. Pray for opportunities to share the gospel as the only hope for man’s ultimate problems.