

Race and the Gospel

Scripture: **Acts 17:24-27**

Series: **Don't Go There**

Sunday, October 1, 2017



REDEEMER
FELLOWSHIP

Overview

As we are confronted with the reality of racism in society, it's important that we search our own hearts for any degree of culpability in this regard. For example, we may be anti-racist in theory, but it's possible we may be indifferent toward racism when it doesn't directly affect us. Perhaps there are subtle ways that we look down on others who are different from us, or we generalize a whole group of people based on the actions of a few. Thus, it's imperative that we understand both the evil nature of racism and God's remedy for it. Since racism dehumanizes people and denies God, it should compel us to realize that only **the truth of God and the gospel put an end to racism.**

Corroborating Texts

Revelation 5:9-10; Mark 10:45; Romans 5:8

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Joe stated that racism is built on a lie. What is the lie? [that race *itself* is the lie; there is no race gene; race is merely a means of classifying people; ethnicity encompasses much more than mere skin color] What do you think drives people to racist attitudes and beliefs?
2. What are specific ways that racism dehumanizes and devalues people? From a biblical standpoint, why is racism wrong? [racism attempts to destroy what God has made]
3. Have you personally ever been the target of racism or discrimination? If so, what was that experience like? How did you deal with it?
4. Read Revelation 5:9-10. How should the doctrine of redemption inform our view of race and ethnicity?
5. God's work of creation and redemption demonstrates the unity of all people. What are various ways this is demonstrated? [God is creator, God is authority, God is author of life; God is good to all; we are all created in God's image; we are all common in Adam; we are all sinners; we are all in need of redemption; God's kingdom is for all who put their trust in Christ.]
6. We are called to treat people the way God wants them to be treated. In what ways do you need to repent in this regard? [Are you afraid? Lazy? Indifferent? Look down on others?]
7. Pastor Joe gave us 3 directives: **love your neighbor**, **take the initiative**, and **take a stand**. In what ways are you being intentional? In what ways do you need to take a stand?