Agenda

- Next Door Neighbor Illustration
- A Brief Description of CBS and My Experience There
- What Does the Bible Say About Ethnicity and Race?
- Having Productive Conversations on Campus
- A Biblical and Theological Rationale of Cultural Diversity
- Question and Answer
What does the Bible say about ethnicity and race?
Key Verses

- And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation (Acts 17:26 KJV)

- For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race. 8 But no one can tame the tongue; it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison. (Jas. 3:7-8 NAS)
Biblical Observations by Ham

- We’re all created by God. *God formed us out of the dust of the ground* (Gen. 2:7).
- We’re all in God’s image. *God said, “Let us make man in Our image”* (Gen. 1:26).
- We’re all one family. *He [God] has made from our blood every nation*” (Acts 17:26).
- We’re all loved by God. *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*” (John 3:16).

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Rev. 7:9-10 NASB).
A Picture of Heaven

“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth’” (Rev. 5:9-10 NASB).

Note we are one blood by descent (Adam/Noah) and purchase (Christ)

“This is our future. This is the destiny of the Church – and the Church today can be an earthly preview of this heavenly reality” (Ware, 120).
Key Terms

♦ ἔθνος ethnos = Nations, Nationalities, Ethnicity
♦ γένος genos = Family, Offspring, Descent
♦ Key Observation: We are all related through Adam (genos) and there is only one race: the human race. While the Bible makes distinctions among ethnicities, distinctions of race by skin color is a social construct foreign to the Bible.
Why Distinctions by Skin Color and Race are Inaccurate

Illustration: David Ortiz/Big Papi
Critique of Song by Ham

“We sing ‘Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight….’ That’s a cute song but actually it’s really scientifically inaccurate! To be accurate, it should say, ‘Jesus loves the little children of the world. Shades of brown from dark to light, all our precious in His sight…’ Yes, Jesus loves us all, but believe it or not, all human beings are basically the same color (shades of brown). There are no truly black or white people.”

Ken Ham and Charles Ware, One Race One Blood: The Biblical Answer to Racism (Green Forest, AR: 2017) 84.
Examples of Racism in Bible

- Individual racism: When Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses’s Cushite wife (Numb 12:1), the Lord viewed their ethnic hostility as a rejection of His authority and Moses’s leadership, and He judged their rebellion by giving Miriam a skin disease (Numb 12:4-13). Thus, Miriam’s attempt to draw “separation” between a man and his Cushite wife directly led to her “separation” from her own people (Numb 12:14-15).
Examples of Racism in Bible

- Systemic racism: Egyptian slavery of Israelites and attempt to kill infant boys to control population.

- James 2:1-13 describes personal favoritism, making distinctions, and partiality as sinful.

- Galatians 2:12-14: Example of Peter not wishing to eat with Gentiles for fear of the Jews and not walking according to the truth of the gospel.

- My experience with James and Tony Evans
Should We Be Surprised by Systemic Racism?

- For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (1 Jn. 2:16 NASB)

- But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7).
Proposed Definition of Racism By CBS Faculty

Intentional or unintentional ideas, individual practices, and established policies rooted in the belief that one group is superior to another. Such ideas, practices, and policies are designed to create, reproduce, and/or maintain a societal hierarchy and therefore power with the express purposes of disadvantaging other ethnicities through social exclusion, political discrimination, economic marginalization, physical and heart level suffering in response to individual and institutionalized sin. Racism can be expressed overtly and institutionally through a policy or a law. Relatedly, individual racism is an act by one person intended to inflict pain on another person through for example verbal or physical violence. (Planned Parenthood Illustration)
Proposed Definition of Prejudice

- **Prejudice**: A sinful disposition or attitude toward a particular racial or ethnic group, or individuals within a specific racial or ethnic group, rooted in stereotypes and faulty opinions about the assumed superiority of one group over another.
Having Productive Conversations

♦ In the Trinity, we see the ultimate example of unity in diversity. Three persons with diverse make up and responsibility but one essence.

♦ In creation we see the image of God in all human beings.

♦ In the gospel we have the ultimate motivation to love our neighbor and see all people groups reached for God’s glory.

♦ Having us and us instead of us and them conversations (Ware, 139).

♦ Focus on the Bible
Having Productive Conversations

- It is important to note that although race is a social construct designed to divide, it does have social implications that should not be ignored (in contrast to colorblindness).
- Illustration: Listening to African American professors discuss experiences with law enforcement (in comparison to mine) and Anglo professors experiences with appeals from students of grades.
Biblical and Theological Rationale for Cultural Diversity

♦ In the Fall of 2018, the CBS faculty were assigned the task of writing “A Biblical and Theological Rationale for Cultural Diversity” as part of the Strategic Plan.

♦ Our President Dr. Bill Blocker assigned the faculty to focus the statement on what the Bible says on the topic.

♦ It can be found on pages 41-50 of my paper “A Dispensational Perspective on Race and Ethnicity.”
Recommended Resources for Book Club or Further Reading

- One Race One Blood
- One Blood
- Oneness Embraced
- Beyond Racial Gridlock
A Biblical Thought on Privilege

- “For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people” (2 Cor. 8:3-4 NIV).

- Illustration with Polar vortex and freezing
“Defining racism in an individualistic manner can help majority group members maintain their advantages. Thus the individualism of European Americans is at least somewhat connected to their own sin nature and desire to ignore the plight of people of color. … Likewise, it is in the interest of people of color to focus on historical and contemporary racism to explain the current state of our society… Concentrating on historical and modern forms of institutional racism can ensure that responsibility for all racial problems will ultimately lead to the feet of European Americans. Of course this approach absolves people of color of accountability for their own shortcomings.”

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Questions or Comments?