

## **Overcoming The Spirit of Racism**

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### **Scripture References**

Acts 17:25-28

2 Corinthians 5:14-20

2 Corinthians 5:16-21, *AMPC*

Ephesians 2:11, 17-19

Galatians 3:23-28

Galatians 3:24, 27-29, *AMPC*

Romans 12:3

Romans 12:3, 5-10, *AMPC*

Genesis 1:26-28, 31

Genesis 3:14-19

### **Summary**

*With all the division in the world today, Christians stand apart as being one unified body of Christ. Because of the finished works of Jesus Christ, believers can all stand on equal ground regardless of who we are. Despite our differences, we can still live in harmony with each other when we are in Christ. Under the Law of Moses, divisions and inequalities existed between men and women, between races and ethnic groups, and between rich and poor. Christ went to the cross and shed His blood to eliminate those differences and bring us back together. In Him, domination no longer exists. We are all equal when we have a relationship with Jesus.*

#### **A. Regardless of race, gender, or ethnic background, being in Christ makes us all equal.**

1. Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 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; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring (Acts 17:25-28).
  - a. We all have one common origin—God. We are all one mankind.
  - b. God has made us all one. We are His creation and the body of Christ.
2. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:14-20).
  - a. Jesus came to redeem all from the spirits of inferiority and superiority. Because of what He did, we can all stand on equal ground.

3. Consequently, from now on we estimate *and* regard no one from a [purely] human point of view [in terms of natural standards of value]. [No] even though we once did estimate Christ from a human viewpoint *and* as a man, yet now [we have such knowledge of Him that] we know Him no longer [in terms of the flesh]. Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh *and* new has come! But all things are from God, Who through *Jesus* Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might aim to bring others into harmony with Him]. It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling *and* restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up *and* holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them], and committing to us the message of reconciliation (of the restoration to favor). So we are Christ's ambassadors, God making His appeal as it were through us. We [as Christ's personal representatives] beg you for His sake to lay hold of the divine favor [now offered you] *and* be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in *and* through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness] (2 Corinthians 5:16-21, *AMPC*).
  - a. A new species has been created; this new species does not look at external things, but at the inner man.
  - b. As ambassadors for Christ, we can make our appeal for reconciliation and harmony.

**B. Jesus shed His blood to erase the differences between people and bring reconciliation.**

1. Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands...And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God (Ephesians 2:11, 17-19).
  - a. Jesus died to redeem everyone, regardless of race, gender, or nationality.
  - b. Jesus' blood makes it possible for all of us to experience God's favor.
  - c. Jesus preached peace, not inferiority or judgment.
  - d. Before Jesus came, some people did not have access to God. Opportunities for women and some races and ethnic groups were limited or nonexistent.
2. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:23-28).
  - a. Because of what Jesus accomplished, now we can all be God's children and be seen as righteous.
3. So that the Law served [to us Jews] as our trainer [our guardian, our guide to Christ, to lead us] until Christ [came], that we might be justified (declared righteous, put in right standing with God) by *and* through faith... For as many [of you] as were baptized into Christ [into a spiritual union and communion with Christ, the Anointed One, the Messiah]

have put on (clothed yourselves with) Christ. There is [now no distinction] neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ [are in Him Who is Abraham's Seed], then you are Abraham's offspring and [spiritual] heirs according to promise (Galatians 3:24, 27-29, *AMPC*).

- a. Women, the poor, and all others who were previously excluded can now be clothed with Christ.

**C. We must not think of ourselves or others as being superior or inferior. We are all one.**

1. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3).
  - a. We must not accept a spirit of superiority *or* inferiority. We can all pursue God's favor.
  - b. As equals, we are what we are because we are no longer under the law.
2. For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate *and* think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him... So we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another]. Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [He whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith; [He whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching; He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity *and* liberality; he who gives aid *and* superintends, with zeal *and* singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness *and* joyful eagerness. [Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence *and* showing honor to one another (Romans 12:3, 5-10, *AMPC*).
  - a. We are all free to use our gifts and talents to serve others. Jesus redeemed us from the curses of the law; now, *no* nationality is cursed.
3. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth... And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good (Genesis 1:26-28, 31).
  - a. God originally made men and women equal. Sin affected their relationship with each other, and with God.
  - b. Because we are all created in God's image, everyone is of infinite value and worth.
4. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in

sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return (Genesis 3:14-19).

a. The curse of domination was the result of sin.

For more on how Jesus Christ brings equality to everyone, click on the link below for the DVD, *Overcoming the Spirit of Racism*.

<https://bit.ly/OvercomingtheSpiritofRacismDVD>

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