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The Bible on Race, Racism, & Social Justice

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Recommended Citation

O'Reggio, Trevor, "The Bible on Race, Racism, & Social Justice" (2023). *Faculty Publications*. 4917.
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The Bible on Race, Racism, & Social Justice

TREVOR O'REGGIO

Race

- No specific term in the Bible for RACE
- Bible cannot be used to justify racism
- Race is a modern term from the 16th-17th Century





One Humankind

Zechariah 9:6 Manzea- mixed race, bastard

Six times the Old Testament refers to one humankind

Genesis 6:5, 7

Job 28:28

ADAM =humankind

Psalms 12:1

Ec. 3:10



Holy Descendants

Ezra 9:2 Zer haqqodesh- Holy Race

Romans 9:3 People of mix-race Race—Jewish people

Acts 7:19

2 Peter 2:9 Chosen race, Chosen people

Bible Addresses Issues of Bigotry & Prejudice

Miriam and Aaron criticize Moses because he married an Ethiopian woman. Numbers 12:1

Haman wanted to annihilate the Jewish people living in Medo-Persia because he hated Mordecai because of his nationality. Esther 3:5-6

Early Jewish believers had prejudices against the Gentiles—Peter sent to Cornelius Acts 10-11

Complaints of Gentile widows who were rejected in comparison to Jewish widows. Acts 6:1-6





Bible Principle against Racism

Genesis 1-2

God created one humanity

God did not create races

We are only one family

All created in God's image

No discrimination based on color, gender, ethnicity

Celebration in diversity



The two greatest Commandments: Love God, Love Neighbor

Love of God, Love of Neighbor

Parable of the Good Samaritan—Who is my neighbor?

Who am I a neighbor to?

Matthew 22:37-40

Luke 10:25-37

Summary of the Law
and the Prophets

Do unto OTHERS as
you would have them
do unto YOU

Philippians 2:3

The Model of humanity:
Let HIS mind be in you.



A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a yellow sweater over a white collared shirt, is shown in a thoughtful pose. He is looking upwards and to the right, with his hand resting on his chin. The background is plain white.

God is no Respector of Persons

No partiality with God

Don't show special attention to some people while ignoring others because of social status, color, nationality, gender, education, or age

James 2:1

Colossians 3:25



Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit gives to all, breaking the barriers of prejudice, discrimination, bigotry, and hatred.

All flesh—sons and daughters, young and old, man and women

Holy Spirit equalizes human relationships.



Ephesians 1:10; 3:6; 4:3-6

Plan of Salvation—all saved the same way. Only one way to Salvation and that's Jesus Christ. One God, one Gospel, one Salvation.

All One in Christ Jesus

New identity that supersedes all other identity.
Galatians 5:28

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. 2
Corinthians 5:17

One family in Christ begins now

The church—setting for the beloved community





“

*He has shown thee oh man what is good
and what the Lord requires, do JUSTLY, have
Mercy, and walk HUMBLY with thy God*

Micah 6:8

Advocate

God imperative for us to be advocates for Justice

Let's create spaces where meaningful relationships can flourish

Let's create oasis of healing where reconciliation can thrive





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