



*JUNETEENTH
IN AMERICA:*

*GOD SO LOVED
HUMANITY*

***U.S. History: 13th amendment to the U.S. Constitution (civil war officially ended April 9, 1865; Lincoln killed April 15, 1865; 13th amendment became law on Jan. 31, 1865)—
“neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the U.S. Or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”***



DEFINITION OF RACISM:

1. “Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.”
2. “The belief that race is a fundamental determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.”

WHILE RACISM IS TYPICALLY FROM A DOMINANT GROUP TOWARD A MINORITY GROUP, RACISM IN THE HEART CAN EXIST IN ANYONE.



Scriptures related to racism:

- *“race” not a biblical word but
- *“ethnicity” (from ethnos—nation) is—
- *“nation, people, caste, tribe”
- *“a multitude of individuals of the same nature or kind”

Acts 17:26—“from one (common) ancestor He made **every human nation (pan ethnos)**, that they should inhabit the whole earth.”

“And He has made of one blood all the nations of men (humans) living on the face of the earth.”



Humanity's common genetic parents: Adam and Eve **Gen. 1:26**

homo sapiens, the “image-bearers” of God—

“let us make mankind in our image...”

*the degree of DNA difference between “races” is miniscule, far less than one percent; **we are the “human” “race”**

Humanity formed many “nations” (ethnoi—ethnicities) occupying different locations across the earth – scripture narrative

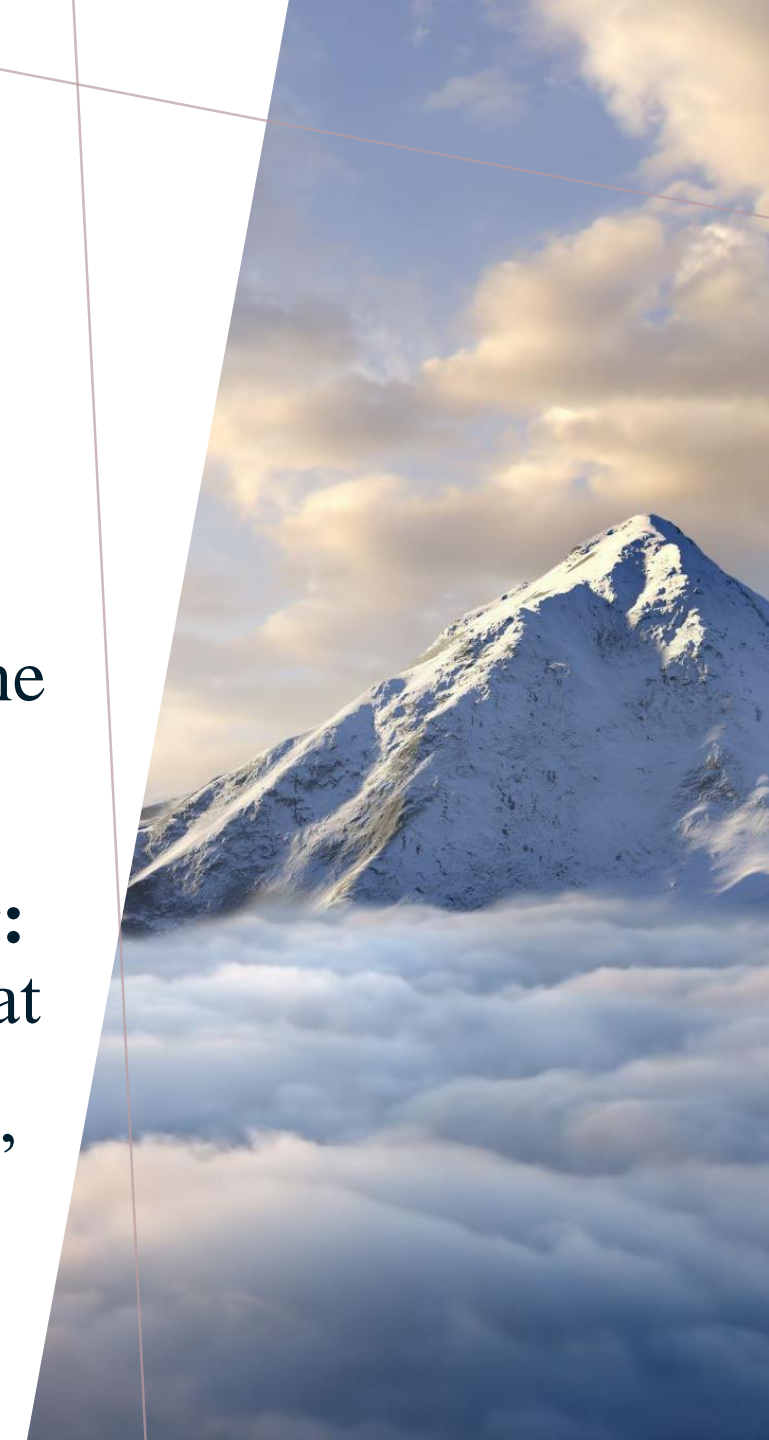
Matt. 28:19—“therefore go and make disciples of all **the nations...**”



How does God see the nations (all ethnicities)?

***Equally, as His image-bearers: Gen. 1:26-27**—“then God said, ‘let us make mankind (humanity) in our image, according to our likeness...male and female He created them.’” Adam and Eve comprise the “human race”—all one race, same parents

***Without partiality toward one ethnicity over another: Acts 10:34-35**—“and now I most certainly understand that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation, He accepts the person who fears Him and does what is right.”



As unified in Christ --

***As objects of God's redeeming love, realized or potential, in Christ— 1 Timothy 2:3—the complete Jewish bible: “God wants all humanity to be delivered and come to full knowledge of the truth.”**

***The ministry of Jesus crossed racial barriers: Jesus praises the gentile centurion and the “good” Samaritan “neighbor” – two racial groups despised by the Jews; Jesus talks with and receives water from the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4)**



As “one new person/people/race” in the church

Galatians 3:27-28—“for all of you who were baptized into Christ Jesus have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” —The 3 great divisions in the ancient world—racial, gender, economic—are dissolved through our common salvation in Jesus and the power of His Spirit in us. “We are one in the Spirit, one in the Lord...”



Ephesians 2:14-18—Jesus came to do what God wanted the Jews to do: bring the blessing of salvation to the Gentiles-- “for He Himself is our peace, who made both (Jew and Gentile) into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, by abolishing in His flesh (body) the hatred (between the two groups) ... so that in Himself He might make the two into one new person, thus establishing peace.”

“A single new humanity” “one new person/people in union with Himself”



Unity among classes

James 2:1—“My brothers and sisters: do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism (partiality).” Sin of partiality favoring the rich and against the poor—condemned by the Lord—not racism, but classism; “O Holy night: “the slave is my brother” – slaves were church leaders



Let Your will be done on earth as in heaven!

Revelation 7:9-10 A picture of full kingdom reality in heaven—every tribe, every nation, every people group of every language—12,000 to 24,000 people groups on the earth -- “after these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and languages (distinct ‘people groups’), standing before the throne and before the lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands, and they were crying out with great volume, “salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the lamb.”



What is the solution to overcoming racism?

2 co. 5:16—“so from now on we evaluate (see/judge) no one from a merely human point of view; even though we once knew Christ like that, we no longer see Him that way.”



See Clearly, Repent, and Love

see “others” differently: 4 points of truth about how we “see” other humans

1. **SEE** Gen. 1:26-- members of all “people groups” are to be seen as worthy of respect and value **as God’s image-bearers**, even if that image is terribly distorted within them
2. **SEE** Acts 17:26 all members of all “nations” are to be seen as **of “one blood, with one kind of DNA”** – we are one human family, biblically—all the same human needs and desires and



Repent and Love

3. **LOVE** matt. 22:39—we are to “**love our neighbors as we love ourselves**” --all you meet and interact with are your “neighbors”—and jesus wants us to “love our neighbor as we love ourselves” hate=rejection

4. **REPENT** of all racist attitudes and actions toward other humans, particularly those in the church; move in the contrary spirit

