

RACIAL RECONCILIATION



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As a nation, we still struggle with racial issues. As the church of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we struggle with separation of the races – especially on Sundays.

What is the answer?

Here is a starting point - the heart of racial reconciliation.

The videos linked below show a black pastor and a white pastor both speaking personally and powerfully about racial reconciliation. Also, you will find the moving *'Reconciliation Song'* from the 1997 Promise Keepers rally in Washington DC, when over one million men from diverse racial groups gathered on the Mall.

In addition, the article *'Racism, Racial Issues & Christianity'* will help you find answers to a number of questions you may have about this issue.

KEY BIBLE VERSES

[Jesus said,] "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

(John 17:22-23, NIV)

Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

(Colossians 3:11)

VIDEO – Christianity & Race

By: Pastor Leonce Crump; Date: October 12th, 2012

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw_n6rfHtG0

Transcript Extract

"It's very, very easy to be integrated on the surface, and remain segregated in your heart.

"It's very, very easy to live a very integrated life in our job, in our neighborhood, or in our gym, or even where we worship.

"But in our lives, around our tables, the people that we run to when things are falling apart, the people that we trust our children to. True community is that filled with people that represent the full spectrum of God's created genius?"

VIDEO – Racial Diversity, Racial Harmony, and the Gospel Walk

By: John Piper

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om9h-LrpYjk>

Transcript Extract

"I can hardly catch my breath when I think of how many thousands of churches were so deeply, massively, blindly out of step with the Gospel as the one I grew up in: voting on Wednesday night to forbid blacks from coming to the church.

"..... There are actions that accord with the Gospel, and most of the Christian churches in the South did not get those right in the Jim Crow era.

"The most important question you can ask about your behavior is: 'Do I have any habit; do I have any action; any behavior; any attitude that contradicts the Gospel?'"

MUSIC – The Reconciliation Song - Promise Keepers

From "The Best Of Promise Keepers". Released March 17, 1998.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r56ppfU6w7A>

ARTICLE – Racism, Racial Issues & Christianity

By: ChristianAnswers.net

<http://christiananswers.net/race.html>

Extract

Here are a few of the questions that are answered in the Racial Issues section of ChristianAnswers.net:

- What are the consequences of racial prejudice and false beliefs about the origin of races?
- What has been the impact of such false beliefs on the gospel, missionary outreach, and racism?
- One of the most frequent tactics employed to discredit America's Founding Fathers is to say that the Founding Fathers were all pro-slavery racists and hypocrites. What does history indicate?

PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Your word tells us: "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know You sent me and have loved them even as You have loved Me."

Yet, dear Lord, we as the Christian church in America are far from racial unity, often fearful to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ who are part of a different racial group.

Lord Jesus, cleanse our hearts and minds that we may be one, just as You and the Father are one.

Amen