

Rev. Matthew Verseemann  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Decatur, Illinois  
Creation Series – Part 6  
July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **ONE BLOOD**

God's PEACE is ALWAYS YOURS in Jesus.

Hear the Word of God from Acts 17 and Genesis 11,

Acts 17:16, "From one man, God made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth."

And from Genesis 11, "But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the people were building. The LORD said, "If as one people, speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other".....That is why it was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth."

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

"Jesus loves the little children. All the little children of the world. Red and Yellow, Black and White, they are precious in God's sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."

Racism is a consequence of sin, and evolutionary thinking.

We've now reach part six in our series on Creation vs. Evolution, with the goal of building all of our thinking on the truth of God's Word, starting with Genesis 1-11.

So what does God's word have to say about "race". God's Word teaches us that there is really just one race of human beings, and we would call it: The Human Race. God's Word says in Acts 17:26, "***From one man (which is Adam), God made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth.***"

In recent years, those working on the human genome project announced that "*they had put together a draft of the entire sequence of the human genome, and the researchers unanimously declared that there is only one race – the human race.*" In fact, geneticists tell us the differences we see between different people groups, such as skin color, hair color, eye color, facial features, physique, and so forth make up 1/100<sup>th</sup> of 1 percent of the human body. In other words, what many have seen as "racial" differences, are nothing more than the external, artistic beauty that the Lord has built into His creation, but we all equally belong to the one race of humans.

And this fact - that all people groups or nations on earth make up a singular human race - can be seen in the fact, for example, that a native American can receive an organ transplant from an Asian person; or a white person, can receive a blood transfusion from a black person. Why? We all belong to one human race, and we all have the same original parents: Adam and Eve.

Often times, when we see artistic renderings of Adam and Eve, they are frequently shown to be fair-skinned. But that's probably not the case. Adam and Eve would likely have been medium brown in skin color. Why? In order to get all of the different skin shades that we see today, Adam and Eve would have had to have both 'light color' genes and 'dark color' genes in their DNA in order for their descendants to have the wide range of skin color from 'very light' to 'very dark'. In the same way, Adam and Eve would have had all of the necessary genetic information in their DNA to produce the wide variety of heights, facial features, physique, and all of the other external distinguishing characteristics that we see in our world today. And why would God have created them with such a wide array of genetic information? Our Lord a masterful artist, Who loves and wanted all of the different beauty we see in His creation; and everyone, of every people group, in the one human race is beautiful to Him, and each individual is a piece of art, purposefully created by a loving God.

Sadly, one the main human characteristics that has given rise to racism is skin color. But even our skin color – when you understand it – gives more evidence that we are all of the same human race, and not of different races.

Let me explain. Every human being on planet earth has the same pigment for skin color in their bodies, and it is a brown pigment called ‘melanin’. Every person has melanin in them, from those who have very light colored skin, to those who have very dark colored skin; the only difference in one’s skin color is determined by the amount of melanin you have in your cells, which is determined by ones’ genetic information, which goes all the way back to our first parents: Adam and Eve.

But, if that’s the case pastor, then how did we get all of the different people groups, with all of the different external characteristics – including skin color - that we see today? Years after Adam and Eve, the Lord judged the whole world with a world-wide flood, because ***“the thoughts of peoples’ hearts were only evil, all the time.”*** However, ***“the Lord saved Noah and His family, eight souls in all, because they were righteous in His sight, through faith in the Lord.”*** So the Lord saved Noah and his wife, their three sons, and their wives, on the Ark through the flood, for we have a Lord who does not condemn the righteous with the unrighteous, but always saves those who trust in Him. Now it was several generations after Noah and his family stepped off of the Ark, that we arrive at Genesis 11, where we’re told that the descendants of Noah settled on the Plains of Shinar, and they all spoke the same language. But in their sin, they said to themselves, ***“Come, let us build for ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves, and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”*** The serpent who once said, ***“You can be like God yourself,”*** was alive and well on the Plains of Shinar. To be blessed by the Lord wasn’t good enough for Noah’s descendants, they wanted to be their own ‘gods’, and come up with their own way into heaven.

And from our perspective, what the Babelites tried to do may seem overwhelmingly foolish, but the impossibility of building a tower that reaches to the heavens, is an example of the depths to which your sin and mine will drag each of us, if we don’t repent of it, but let it have its’ way with us. Despite the fact that there is no other way into heaven except through God’s Son, the world is still full of sinners trying to build their own tower of Babel. You see, when it’s all said and done, you and I are either going to base our hope of heaven on the works of our hands, or on the work of Jesus’ nail-pierced hands. So what’s it going to be for us? Babel’s tower or Jesus’ cross?

Now, do you remember what happened to the Tower of Babel? God’s Word says, ***“But the Lord came down to see the city, and the tower the men were building.”*** Now, this is actually humorous. If God, who is ALL-SEEING, and ALL-KNOWING had to come down to see the tower the Babelites were building, this shows how puny our sinful attempts are at playing God, and make it to heaven on our own. **Page 3**

When the Lord saw the Tower of Babel, if there's one thing the Lord wasn't afraid of, it was of losing His Lordship. But He did see trouble brewing. What God saw was that there would be no limit to the depths of peoples' sinful rebellion against Him, and no limit to the damage they would do to themselves, and their descendants, if they were to be allowed to continue "playing god". Countless souls would be lost. What was at stake at the Tower of Babel was not God's Kingdom. He will always have His kingdom. What was at stake was our place in God's kingdom.

God summarized the problem with these words in Genesis 11, "*If, as one people, speaking the same language, they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let US go down, and confuse their language, so that they cannot understand each other.*" So the Lord scattered them (that is, the descendants of Noah and his wife, the Babelites) from there, all over the earth, and they stopped building the city. That is why it is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world, and scattered them over the face of the whole earth."

And this, brothers and sisters, is where we get the rise of all the different people groups – not different races, there's only one human race – but all the different people groups, with the wide variety of different external characteristics that we see – which are all beautiful to God. Sadly, our sinful hearts often times refuse to see our external differences as the beauty marks of God's creation, but something to dislike.

Racist attitudes arise from sinful hearts. But in many ways, these racist views were fueled by the 'so-called' science of evolution, and has led to countless racist actions. African pygmies were literally displayed alongside orangutans, in a cage in the Bronx zoo in New York, as so-called proof that man evolved from apes, when, in fact, those pygmies are as fully human as you and I. Congo pygmies were believed to be "*apelike, elfish creatures, and further proof man came from apes.*" Evolution fueled many racist ideas. When scientists discovered the Aborigines of Australia, they believed them to not be as evolved as the white man. I hope you see how evil and corrupt evolutionary thinking is. It is not unbiased science. And it was as a result of Darwinian evolution, that many people –and so-called scientists – started thinking of different people groups, as different races, rather than as equal human beings, with different external characteristics; or as I like to call them: the 'beauty marks of God'. But when we start to build all of our thinking on the truth of God's Word, rather than man's opinions. We see that there is only one human race, as God's word teaches in Acts 17 "*From one man, God made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth.*"

Throughout history, there have been many times where the church has failed, either in condoning slavery, or in refusing to speak out against racism. When Christians from England first discovered the American Indians, they refused to believe that the Indians could be descendants of Adam and Eve. Why? Adam and Eve must certainly have been white, like we are, they thought. And so they viewed the Indians as pre-Adamites, who must have arisen from different parents than Adam and Eve, and that racist idea led some to doubt the truth of God's Word. I hope you see how evil our sinful hearts are. Thankfully, other Christians, throughout history, including Abraham Lincoln, a true believer in Jesus, knew that all human beings are created equal by God, and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights. And there were many Christians, black and white, who fought for the North to set those who were enslaved free. Why? We are all created by God, and we are all equally loved by Him.

In the Old Testament, Job, recognized that all were equal before God, and that all should be treated as bearing the image of God, when he said this in Job 31, ***"If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, what then shall I do when God rises up? When He punishes, how shall I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb, make them also? Did not the same One fashion both of us in the womb?"***

Now, since there is only one race, Christians should no longer speak of "races". We should speak of different people groups, nations, or cultures that arose after the Tower of Babel. And since we all belong to one race, there really are no "racial" differences. All of the external differences in the different people groups resulted from the different genetic information they carried with them when they were separated at the Tower of Babel. Yet, we should view all of these differences that God built into Adam and Eve's DNA as the beauty marks of God's artistic creation. Every human being is our relative. We are all cousins in Adam and Eve. We are all of one blood and one race. Sadly, all of us are equal in terms of being born in sin and death, which we inherited from our first parents Adam and Eve. The Good News is that we are all equally loved by God. ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son that 'Whoever' believes in Him, will not perish, but have eternal life."*** We are all equally redeemed by Jesus. 2 Corinthians 5 says, ***"Christ died for all."*** And we are all equally forgiven by our Savior. John 1, ***"Behold! The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world."*** **Page 5**

Now, let me use an example, to see if I have been able to get the message of God's Word across when it comes to our all being of one race. I want to do so by asking you a question. And the question is this: *"Which of the following is Biblically wrong: if your child – who is white – were to marry a black Christian; or, if your child, who is white, were to marry a white unbeliever?" Which of these does God prohibit?*

God's Word does not prohibit your child – or mine – from marrying someone of another skin color; but it does prohibit a Christian from marrying an unbeliever. Why would it not be wrong for our white child or grandchild to marry a black Christian? We all belong to the same human race, and we're all equally descendants of Adam and Eve. The only difference is that the black person has more of the pigment 'melanin' in their skin, than the white person.

And yet, although this is changing, how many parents would be more upset if their child were to marry a black person, but wouldn't be upset at all, or at least not as upset, if they were to marry an unbeliever who is white. The point of this whole series is that we need to build all of our thinking on God's word. The only marriage that God's Word prohibits is not a marriage to a person of a different skin color, but it prohibits marriage to one who doesn't believe in Jesus. Paul says in 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 6, *"Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship does light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and (satan)? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? And we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them, and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. Therefore, "Come out from among them (referring to unbelievers), and be separate, says the Lord."*

Our sin is that in many ways we've been led to look at the exterior of peoples' lives, rather than the interior of person, and then to make sinful judgments based on what we see. Paul tells us in Romans 12, *"By the grace of God given to me, I say to everyone, do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to....we, who are many, are all one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."* The only way to solve the issue of racism is with Jesus' love and forgiveness for all. Racism will not be solved with more laws, reparations, riots, and anarchy; and it may even be fueled by the sinful teaching of evolution. The only solution to the sin of racism, or any sin, is that of Jesus Christ, our Savior, was willing to take on our flesh and bone, our blood and skin, and being born of Mary, Jesus probably had a medium brown skin color.

But what matters is not our Savior's skin color, but Who He was, and what He did to save us. Philippians 2 tells us, "***Who, being in very nature God, did not consider His being equal with God something to be grasped and held onto. But He made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even death upon a cross.***"

Every descendant of Adam and Eve is not only equally loved by God the Father, but every human being is equally loved and equally saved by Jesus' forgiving death. Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, became our mutual brother by taking on our human flesh, bone, blood, and skin. And then, as our mutual brother by flesh and blood, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross to forgive Adam and Eve and all of their children. And then He rose again from the dead having conquered sin and death for Adam and Eve and all of their children. And it is our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus, Who now bids us to love everyone, as He first loved us, and laid down His life for us. It is our crucified and risen Savior, Who sends us out, to make disciples of all nations - not all races, because there's only one race." How? By sharing the Good News with them, that everyone is included in the forgiving death of Jesus, and that Jesus dropped dead on the cross for everyone's sin. And, as a result of the cross, the Lord has forgiven all of our sins, and He remembers them no more, so that: '***Everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord, will be saved***' regardless of skin color, eye color, hair color, facial features, physique, you name it.

Why did Jesus do it? Here's why. "Jesus loves the little children. All the little children of the world. Red and Yellow, Black and White, they are precious in God's sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world." AMEN.