

# San Juan church of Christ

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## What Does God's Word Say About...

### Racism and Prejudice

Racism is caused by the human belief that there are inherent differences among the various ethnic groups, both physically and culturally. The thought of one race having superiority causes hatred and intolerance of the other ethnic groups. All human beings were created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27). God "made from one man [Adam] every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation," (Acts 17:26). The line of human descent passed from Adam and Eve and their descendants to Noah and his family. After the flood, men turned against God's command for them to scatter and fill the earth (Genesis 9:1), and began to build a city and a tower. While they were building, the Lord "came down to see the city" and in order to accomplish His will, He confused their languages and "scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth" (Gen. 11:1-8). By dispersing linguistically isolated groups all over the world, the Tower of Babel incident had a significant effect on the development of mankind. The Bible does not give us scripture as to the origin of different "races" or skin-colors but we can speculate that when God confused the languages He created racial diversity by segregating people according to their new languages.

God does not show partiality or favoritism to any individual or group (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11). Jesus died on the cross for the sins of ALL mankind (John 3:16). Likewise, we should not show partiality to others (James 2:4,9) but instead we are to love our neighbor as ourselves (James 2:8). Paul wrote that we should "put aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth... and put aside the old self with its evil practices and put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the One who created him, a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free man, that Christ is all and in all. So, as those who have been chosen of God put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another and forgiving each other...beyond all things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity" (Col. 3:8-14).

Racism, in varying forms and to various degrees, has been a plague on humanity for thousands of years causing hatred and prejudice between ethnic groups. This will continue until we apply what the apostle John wrote, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought to also love one another. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also," (1 John 4:7, 21). John also wrote, "A great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues" are standing before the throne of the Lamb (Revelation 7:9). That is unity!

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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