

OneRace Movement

Why OneRace?

August 5th, 2018

I. What is OneRace?

A. OneRace is a movement of prayer and unity, with 17 pastors groups, from all denominations and ethnicities, around the metro Atlanta area, all engaged together to see racism and dead religion torn down over the city of Atlanta and replaced with reconciliation and revival.

B. On August 25th we are all going to gather at Stone Mountain for a historic day of worship and prayer as we address the historic issues of racism from a Jesus-centered, gospel-centered vantage point. The church in our city is going to renounce the sin of racism.

II. Why is it called OneRace?

Acts 17:26 “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings”

A. All human beings are created from one blood and have a single common ancestor.

B. Therefore we are not many races; we are one race, created by God.

III. The Imago Dei

Genesis 1:27 “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.”

A. The Imago Dei is a theological term, which refers uniquely to human beings. In all of creation there is one entity that is explained as being created “in the image of” God. That entity is the human race.

B. Across the billions of people and thousands of cultures in humanity God has woven together a beautiful tapestry that rightly expresses His nature and being.

C. Where there is disdain for any facet of the human race this is ultimately disdain for the image of God.

D. Racism could be defined as hatred for the image of God as it is resident in differing cultures.

IV. The Fallacy of race as a system of categorization

A. The concept of “Race” as a system of classification emphasizing differing skin colors was first used in the 1700’s.

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- B. By the 1800's scientific debate on "Race" grew beyond identifying physical differences to include the concept that "racial variation" was a result of humans having different origins.
- C. These classifications set humans in a hierarchy and formed the basis for white supremacists thinking and justifications for slavery, segregation and the racist doctrine of anti-Semitism practiced in Nazi Germany.
- D. W.E.B Du Bois was the first argue that race was not a useful scientific category, and showed that race was merely a social construct.
- E. The concepts of scientific racism were ultimately discredited by the 1950's; however, the terms that were originally used to categorize people (Caucasoid, Negroid, Mongoloid) remained.
- F. The idea of racial distinctions is now commonly understood as a social invention that has no scientific basis or standing.¹ In fact, on average, each human being is 99.5% similar in DNA to every other human being.

V. God's design in creation

- A. In creation God's design for humanity was never for us to live separated or in division across cultures, genders, or generations.
- B. Unity was God's original design, starting with our relationship w/God and then extending to the family unit and then transcending society.
- C. Sin caused the original separation between God and man and then ultimately between man and man.
- D. Whatever sin is dividing us across cultural lines must be repented of through corresponding words, thoughts, and deeds.

¹ Dr. Audrey Smedley, Professor of Anthropology at Virginia Common Wealth University and author of the *New Millennial edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica's entry on 'race*.