



Do Black Lives Matter?

Introduction:

“You are not born racist, you’re born into a racist society. And like anything else if you can learn it, you can unlearn it...Racism is a mental illness. If you judge people by the color of their skin, by the amount of a chemical in their skin you have a mental problem. You are not dealing well with reality.” - Jane Elliot (YouTube Search: Racism is a mental illness).

I. The **Roots** of Racism in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible

Genesis 9:18-27 NRSV; Genesis 10: 6-20 NRSV

Noah had 3 sons. **Japheth**, **Ham**, **Shem**.

Japheth’s descendants are primarily people of **Eastern Europe**, **Germany**, and **Asia Minor**.

Shem’s descendants are primarily people of **Western Asia**.

Ham’s descendants were **Cush**, **Egypt**, **Put**, and **Canaan**.

- Cush was also known as Nubia. Nubia is modern day **Sudan**. Sudan is in **Africa**.
- Egypt is in **Africa**.
- Put is modern day Libya. Libya is in **Africa**.
- The Caananites were run out of the Promised Land by the children of Israel.

Joshua 3:10 NRSV

II. The **Reinforcement** of Racism in the New Testament

Ephesians 6:4-9 NRSV; Colossians 3:22 NRSV; Titus 2:9 NRSV; I Peter 2:18 NRSV

Relevant Question: How Can Blacks still be Christians, when many White people used Christianity and the Bible to keep us enslaved and oppressed?

“Black **Christians** could agree: they sang more songs and preached more sermons about the cross than any other aspect of Jesus’ ministry. To be sure, Jesus’ life and teachings are important for the Black church community to understand his meaning, especially seeing him in complete solidarity with the **oppressed**. The classic expression of this aspect of Jesus’ ministry is found in the Gospel of Luke. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,” Jesus said at the beginning of his ministry in a Nazareth synagogue, as he read from the “scroll of the prophet Isaiah,” “because he has anointed me to bring good news to the **poor**. He has sent me to proclaim release to the **captives**, and recovery of sight to the **blind**, to let the **oppressed** go free.” Luke 4:18 NRSV

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*Black people sang and preached about Jesus being with the poor—healing and feeding them. The resurrection of Jesus is God giving people meaning beyond history, when such violence as slavery and lynching seemed to close off any future.” - James Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*, p. 25-26*

“Although they forced their religion on us. We fixed their religion and handed it back to them. They handed us a corrupted religion and we handed back to them a corrected religion. The beauty and brilliance of the African American church is that we found liberty and love in the same bible that was used to enslave us. So we don’t have a White man’s religion we have a religion that has been remixed and renewed by love, self-respect, resurrection possibilities, and the grace of God.”
-Reginald W. Sharpe Jr.

III. The **Remedies** for Racism

A. **Overcome** your addiction with **looks**.

I Samuel 16:17 NRSV

B. **Operate** from a place of **love**.

I John 4:20 NRSV

C. **Oppressors** and the oppressed both need the **Lord**.

Proverbs 29:13 NRSV

D. **Observe** that we are all on the same **level**.

Galatians 3:11 NRSV

IV. Our **Responsibility** against Racism

A. Recognize your role in the **economy**.

B. Refuse to disrespect other’s **humanity**.

C. Realize the evils of **society**.

D. Resolve to build **community**.

E. Remember your noble **history**.

F. Reflect on your **identity**.

i. You are **valuable**.

Genesis 1:27 NRSV

ii. You have a **voice**.

Esther 4:14-16 NRSV

iii. You are **victorious**.

Romans 8:35-39 NRSV

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