

ONE FATHER: THE ORIGINS OF RACE – GENESIS 1:27

Background:

Undoubtedly, you have heard much in these recent weeks about race. Likely, you are flooded each day, in print or on-screen, with commentators that weigh-in about race. Expressions such as “racial groups” or “racial division” are used so frequently that maybe you take them for granted.

This Sunday, we will look at race. We will consider the origins of race as we examine Genesis 1:27.

Introduction:

Today is Father's Day, when children honour their Dad, when children run to their Dads, to their fathers' laps, their fathers being their place of stability. Fathers of the past represented the 'rock of stability' in the home. Kids with spiraling issues, or who were wrestling with their thoughts, knew they could always go to Dad.

Jesus Christ, our example, went to His Father 'often' while on Earth. In His tumultuous time at the end of His ministry, we find Jesus giving the 'Upper Room Discourse', hard truths to the disciples. Then Jesus, the Son of God, turns, and prays to God, His Father. He prays specifically for His disciples.

John 17:1a, 13-17

"These things Jesus spoke; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said

'But now I come to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth'." (NASB)

Jesus asks The Father to 'keep them', to 'guard them', and to 'sanctify them' in the truth, God's Word being the truth.

John 17:17

"Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth." (NASB)

Let us today, in this time of chaos, misunderstanding, confusion, and misinformation, let us too be 'set apart' in this truth. Jesus establishes that this is 'the guard', this is how the 'guarding' will take place, through the Word of God. The pleading Christ wants us to also be 'set apart, fully devoted to God the Father, because of this truth. We have this instrument of 'sanctification'; we have The Word. Grab hold of this truth, therefore, as we turn to the beginning of the Word.

The first few verses of Genesis establish the first five days of creation, how the heavens and the earth were formed, and then we have one day remaining, the sixth day, the summit of His creation, when God completes the pinnacle of His creation, the origin of mankind. There is much truth packed into verses 26-31, but we will zero in on verse 27 specifically, for this is a critical and important reference, especially in our current climate, for it deals with the 'origins of man'. We will examine the verse in three parts, in order to obtain, mine, pull out its truth.

Genesis 1:26-31

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' (27) AND GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE, IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM; MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM. And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' Then God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food'; and it was so. And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day." (NASB)

I ONE CREATOR:

Genesis 1:27

"And God created ..." (NASB)

So, 'God said' and 'God created'; the truth that God is the creator should not be a surprise. Chapter one of Genesis frames the book, starts the book, with many references stating that it is God who is behind this creation. It is God who is the architect. The reality is, there is ONE CREATOR.

Verse 1: 'In the beginning GOD ...'

Verse 3: 'Then God said ...'

Verse 6: 'Then God said ...'

Verse 9: 'Then God said ...'

Verse 11: 'Then God said ...'

Verse 14: 'Then God said ...'

Verse 20: 'Then God said ...'

Verse 26: 'Then God said ...' (NASB)

So, God is the Creator, and has been creating the various parts of creation, in these early verses, (and He is still 'the Creator', the one, triune, eternal, omnipotent, God alone Creator). Then in verse 26, God, the architect, says: 'Let us make man'. (NASB) The word "US" refers to the Triune God. This is the first reference to the Trinity in the Bible. The Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the glorious mystery, three persons/ONE GOD, on display in the opening chapter of the Bible.

And so, 'God created man' (verse 27). The word 'man' in the Hebrew is 'adam', meaning mankind, humans. The word 'adam' becomes the name of the first man, Adam.

We are 'created' beings. Pause and consider, we are not evolved, accidental, or random. Mankind did not spring up from 'nothing'. Mankind is not the result of 'big bang' particles. We are not products of amoebas upstream. No. All that is nonsensical, and illogical. Just consider the order, the symmetry of the body, as one example. That is no accident! And, holding to belief in a 'non-creator origin', of accident, of random, flies in the face against what God tells us. This simple truth needs to be repeated. The one Creator tells us that we are all 'created', and 'created' by one Creator, by His power, His design, His definition, His authority. Meanwhile, everywhere around us we are swimming in a sea of claims and definitions about the 'origins of man', the origins of humanity, yet these are just the world's attempt to come out 'against' the plain truth that we are all 'created' by the one creator, God.

The Bible declares one Creator. It does not have multiple or varied 'origin of man' stories or accounts. No. There is only one. We are not living in a cosmos world with many creators. There is not a Hindu corner, a Buddhist corner, a mystic realm, with workshops which pop out people. There are not many creators sharing realistic thinking. That fairy tale, that 'Kum Bah Yah' attitude, only works on bumper stickers. Many want to think this way, want to have their own origin stories, but NO, God says one Creator who created all mankind, one way.

Another reality is evident. There is an 'authority' here in the Biblical text. Yet in the world there is a 'subtle' narrative, that man has created god, that you can have a god of your own understanding, your own creation, have a heaven of your own design; your creation, your path, your way, your design. Everyone has 'expertise' on the origins of man. Everyone has a claim on how we came to be, on what man needs. But this is absurd. Imagine some 'expo' of inventions, and a man has invented a machine, and there he stands with his manual in hand, ready to distribute it, but everyone has their own slate and their own ideas and their own opinions. They are not interested in the inventor and his manual, are not even looking at the inventor. They are 'suppressing' him with their own 'unrighteousness' (their own backwards attempts to create their own god!) This is the 'backwards' picture of our world today. Everyone has a claim, but no one is paying heed to the actual inventor. Instead, they are suppressing Him with their own claims.

This backward picture, this downstream scene, is Paul's point in Romans 9; He links the problem to a common understanding in order to get his message to the people. The absurdity of the 'moulded talking to the moulder', 'the clay' questioning 'the Potter'. What are you doing? Why did you make me like that? But today, in this backwards world, 'clay' is not just questioning 'the Potter'. No. Today, 'the clay' are claiming 'the Potter's rights'. Everyone is a potter now. The created, claiming authority to define the creator. Yet the claims are absurd. ONE CREATOR means one authority who created all mankind. This is the fundamental design, the fundamental origin. Understanding this helps us to understand the world. If all this is denied, and pushed aside, then we have a substantial problem; the 'denial of who made us', not just ONE CREATOR.

Genesis 1: 27

"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (NASB)

II ONE RACE:

The word 'race' is very common today. Everyone has something to say about 'race'. Race, race, race! But what does God say about 'race'? The Bible says that "God created man". Note: the Bible does not say that 'God created races', nor does the Bible talk about 'races' in the way people do today. The Bible does speak of nations, of ethnicities, of different languages, but not of 'race'. So where does the word/concept of 'race' come from? It comes out of the 19th century evolutionists' movement, by such as Darwin and Huxley, who needed the concept of 'race' as a crutch, to prop up, and hold up, their 'white supremacist' ideas, their false claims of 'survival of the fittest'. Hitler himself was a by-product of such thinking. These false ideas proved to be a 'most convenient' twisting of truth, for it has been noted, if you hold to evolution, you need to hold to the 'concept of races'. The two go hand in hand. The two are linked. However, the Bible does not support such claims. From the beginning, the Bible establishes that the ONE CREATOR, created MANKIND, not many 'races'. This truth is confirmed in Acts.

Acts 17:26

"and He made from one every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation." (NASB)

This is crucial to our understanding. God did not make many different 'races'. NO. But 'many nations' came from one man. God made the 'human race', and that is the only 'race' that He created. There is no plural in the Bible to be found... nothing to suggest 'races'.

Genesis 1:28

"And God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over every living thing that moves on the earth'." (NASB)

So, verse 27 established that there was only ONE RACE, which is the human race. And verse 28 established that God told them to be 'fruitful' and to 'multiply', multiplication from that first couple, being Adam and Eve, and then, later that first couple being Noah and his wife (which we see is following The Flood, and so refers to Noah and his wife, being the first couple, and their three sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth.)

Genesis 3 - Original Sin.

Genesis 4 - First Sibling Fight

Genesis 5-8 - The Wickedness of Man; The Resulting Flood

And so The Flood has ended, and the ark has landed, Noah has built an altar, and 'God remembers Noah' (Genesis 8:1). Eight humans are left in the world, only one family saved, Noah and his wife, and their three sons and their wives. (Genesis 7:13, 8:16)

Genesis 9:1

"And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth'." (NASB)

So, three sons are left, from the same family, and from the SAME RACE. Ham, Shem and Japheth are to fill the earth. God did not create more people, and God did not create many 'races' and send them forth. NO. Three sons, from one family, are left; NOT THREE RACES. And God has commanded them twice to multiply.

Genesis 9:7

"And as for you, be fruitful and multiply;

Populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it." (NASB)

And so, in the years that followed many more sons were born to this family, as noted in Genesis 10. These many sons born will become nations.

Genesis 10:1

"Now these are the records of the generations Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the sons of Noah; and sons were born to them after the flood." (NASB)

Genesis 10:32

"These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood." (NASB)

And from these three sons came clans, people groups, with their own languages, who moved about over the earth, spreading out geographically, settling in different regions, becoming different 'nations', but still all from the three brothers, the same family, and the same race.

Genesis 10:5

"From these the coastlands of the nations were separated into their lands, everyone according to his language, according to their families, into their nations.

The Table of Nations gives way to the Tower of Babel. We read that the son Nimrod became a mighty one on the earth (Genesis 10:8).

Genesis 10:10

"And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calnich, in the land of Shinar." (NASB)

Genesis 11 provides us with the story of transition, of what happened. It is as if God pulls back a curtain and says 'this is how it came to be'.

These were proud men with blind ambition, seeking to build a tower to heaven. Displeased, God dispersed them from Babel through different regions, each with their own language. Yet, while they developed into different nations, and were made separate/distinct by language, they were still of one family, ONE RACE, the human race. Nothing in chapters ten or eleven changes this fact or conflicts with this fact.

So why do we look so different you may ask? The language and location differences make sense, but we look different. Why? The answer is 'MELANIN', a pigment of colour, which we all have, to more or less degrees, determining skin, hair and eye colouring. It is part of our DNA, like we all have cartilage in our nose and ears, or like we all have height, some more than others. We all have 'things' in our makeup, to more or less degree. The theories around 'melanin' and genetics present an interesting study, but the bottom line is that there is one pigment which results in many different hues and tones. Interestingly, geneticists tell us that close to 99% of our DNA sequence matches virtually everyone else's on the planet, the reason being, because we are from one race. One Creator, through Adam and Eve, made a way for humans to express 'melanin' differently in genetic protocols, allowing for many variations of the one pigment, and thus resulting in many tones, many hues, many shades. That is God, and God's creativity. And, it does not need/take billions of years to change the colouring. We note two famous examples: Lucy and Maria Alymer, twins, one black and one white, while their parents are the same, and the Nigerian couple who had a white baby. These things can only happen because we have 'one pigment'.

So, without getting into all the science, the key point is that we are ONE RACE.

ONE CREATOR GOD CREATED US AS ONE RACE with a variety of ethnicities, and therefore we all have ancestors in every nation. There are almost 200 countries in the world today, and we have family ties with them all.

Like all families, the 'global family' has trouble getting along. Yes, as with Cain and Abel, we have 'sibling rivalry'. It is a systemic problem, for sure, and goes back through the centuries, but ultimately, the problem is not 'racism', and is not a 'group based' problem. No. It is a 'personal' problem, and a systemic 'SIN PROBLEM'. We work it out in many ways, finding many reasons/excuses to sin against each other, and responding to 'melanin' is just one expression of that sin. Yet trying to deal with 'racism' by only treating the 'symptoms' of 'racism', while well intended, is well off the mark. Everyone wants to discuss 'race', but no one wants to get to the 'root of the problem'. The problem, however, is not the police, is not plantation owners, is not how one was brought up, is not any of these reasons. The problem is rooted in the Genesis 3 Fall, in

rebellion, in SIN. It was not 'melanin' that caused Cain to kill Abel. It is not 'melanin' that crouches at the door. No. It is SIN that crouches at the door. God calls it out in chapter four of Genesis.

Genesis 4:7

"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (NASB)

God, the ONE CREATOR says we are ONE RACE, WITH ONE PROBLEM, SIN! Different circumstances, different locations, different 'skin shades', different amounts of 'melanin' remain, but these are merely creative expressions, made possible by the ONE CREATOR, within the ONE RACE.

III ONE IMAGE:

Genesis 1:27

"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." (NASB)

God created man in 'HIS OWN IMAGE'. The Hebrew term for 'image' signifies the concept of COPY, carries the idea of REPRESENTATION.

In years gone by, a king, a ruler, would put 'images' of himself throughout his domain, likenesses of himself, reminding his subjects of his dominion over that location, and signifying his sovereignty. So too for us. In the same way, God has marked out the world with 'image bearers', placed 'images', not the ruler Himself, but 'people' 'created in His image'.

We note that God, in Genesis 1, does not say that He created just Whites, or just Jews, or just Blacks. It is not a matter of a specific group, a particular people, a specific nation or ethnicity. No. ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED, 'IN THE IMAGE OF GOD'. 'in HIS IMAGE'. There is no mention of skin colour; all are included. The whole race, male and female, in or out of the womb, without limit, ALL are created, 'in HIS IMAGE'. There is no mention of skin colour or of 'different races'. All of us, every human, every nation, every language, every ethnicity, every tribe, from Eden to Peterborough today, no matter who you are, or what you have done, are made in ONE IMAGE, made in the IMAGE OF GOD. EVERY HUMAN BEARS THE DIVINE IMPRINT OF GOD THE FATHER.

The entire human race bears the IMAGE OF GOD. And, if that is true, and it is, then there is something bigger going on today, there are bigger implications, more going on than just the riots we see in the streets, something transcendent, that speaks into the culture today. The 'human race', as IMAGE BEARERS, means a few things.

1. EVERY HUMAN LIFE HAS WORTH. LIFE IS SACRED, always, and for everyone, from conception to the grave. The high value on the image of God in man is shown in the high cost of taking a life, as stated in Genesis.

Genesis 9:6

"Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man." (NASB)

The point is, that there is a high cost for taking another life, for slaying another human, another 'image bearer'.

However, dignity is not limited to murder. Our words also are important; with our words we can 'curse' others. We do not think, but speak, cursing those who are fellow 'image bearers', those who are in 'THE LIKENESS OF GOD'. Consider the wisdom of James 3 about the tongue. We read in part:

James 3: 9

"With it we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God." (NASB)

We are not to speak ill of others. All lives matter; all lives are made in the 'image of God', the vulnerable, the weak, the worker, the police, the Blacks, the Whites. This is why it matters, ALL have been created in the 'image of God'.

2. WE WERE MADE TO LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP. Being made in the 'image of God' means that we are made to represent the fundamental 'nature' of God, and God is Trinity, that is, Triune in nature, three persons (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit), and so, we too are fundamentally 'relational' at our core. Isolation, therefore, is not our default. As attractive as it seems, we are not meant to be alone. Yet we face estrangement in our 'relationship' to the Creator. Original sin has separated God and mankind, and without 'reconciliation', compatibility and 'RELATIONSHIP' are missing.

3. WE ALL HAVE A DIVINE BLUEPRINT. We all have emotions, will, etcetera, just as our heavenly Father does.

RECONCILIATION: Reconciliation, the action of making us once again compatible with our Heavenly Father; the process of restoring 'RELATIONSHIP' between God and mankind, the ending of the estrangement caused by 'ORIGINAL SIN', the means of taking us from the state of 'enemies' to that of 'adopted sons and daughters'.

The Bible describes 'reconciliation' this way:

Romans 5:12-14

"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned-- for until the Law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no

law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of Adam's offense, who is a type of Him who was to come." (NASB)

Sin came into the world through man, and 'death reigned' from Adam to Moses. 'Death still reigns' today, on and on with its many 'isms; the 'root of death' with its many manifestations, lying, fear, excessive force, hoarding, arson, bullying, all parts of the same, but in the end all boiling down to one problem, to the same problem, 'SIN'. Until we recognize this, until we get to the root cause of humanity's problem, the problem of the HUMAN RACE, NOTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE.

Jason was reading about an interview done with Bob Gibson, a Black baseball player, now 84 years, and having been through the Civil Rights movement. The man was asked, 'What has changed over the years'? His response was, 'Nothing has changed.'

What! Have we not progressed? Given all the inquiries, round tables, discussions, ad nauseum, from Jackie Robinson till now, surely some progress has been made to some point. But no, things remain the same, nothing has really changed. Here's why. THE ONLY TRUE REMEDY IS TURNING TO THE 'PERFECT IMAGE' OF THE GOD MAN, CHRIST. It is His free gift for many, BY HIS GRACE, that makes all the difference. His gift is not like the trespass.

Romans 5:15

"But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of 'the one' many died, much more did the grace of God and gift by the grace of 'the one' Man Jesus Christ, abound to the many." (NASB)

While division and condemnation and death came by the first Adam, Christ's free gift abounds with the 'RECONCILIATION' of Adam's sin. 'Death reigned' through the first man, but much life, abundant life, comes through Christ. Justification, the 'free gift' of righteousness, comes through Him. Only He, Jesus Christ, is the ONE SAVIOUR, the 'one solution', the ONLY ONE who can reconcile race. He is the TRUE RACIAL RECONCILIATION. Reign in life, therefore, through Jesus Christ, by receiving Him.

Galatians 3:27-28

"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (NASB)

In Christ there is no male or female, slave or free, no division of race. All are ONE in Christ Jesus. We do not need a corporate apology. We do not need corporate anything. What we do need is 'personal repentance', a begging of God for forgiveness. Either Christ will die for your sins, or you will. ("For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 NASB) Either you will need to

take on the payment that Christ paid, or you will pay for sin yourself. The problem is not around you, is not Covid, is not an outer root problem. The problem is internal, a heart problem.

The result of Christ's work is that WE ARE ONE in Him. All are ONE in Him. But without Him, we are not okay. Without Christ we are separated from God forever, and face eternal death in hell. Being curious, looking for answers in world's events, is not the right way, for the world does not provide us hope. Looking for a vaccine, or a revived economy, even if it does come, is no answer to the problem, for it does not address the problem 'of the heart', the inner SIN problem. Our race is dying. Our race is not in 'right RELATIONSHIP' with God. 'RIGHT RELATIONSHIP' with God needs to come first before 'right relationship' with man can happen. It is a vertical issue, not a horizontal issue. True 'unity' only is possible in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. What we need is 'personal repentance, a begging of God for forgiveness.

Benediction: Psalm 133:1

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to dwell together in unity." (NASB)

Amen, and Amen.