

K I N F O L K

We are all one race.
We are all from one blood.
We are all made in God's image.

We're All Kinfolk

Every one of us is equal in value before God.
Every one of us is to be treated with equality by one another.

We're All Kinfolk.

Every one of us is loved unconditionally by God.
Every one of us is to be loved unconditionally by one another.

We're All Kinfolk.

"God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male & female he created them." Gen 1:27. "And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth." Act 17:26. "Those who oppress the vulnerable show contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to them honors God." Prov 14:31. 1Tim 5:21: I charge you in the sight of God to carry out God's will without partiality & do nothing out of favoritism. "Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another?... Mal 2:10.

K I N F O L K

To presuppose that one's own ethnicity is superior to someone else's is a denial of the fact that all people are created in the image of God. The bible teaches that those who take a superior attitude toward others due to their differences in social or economic status, vulnerabilities, appearances, ethnicity or nationality are not simply practicing inequal & unloving behavior, but are also showing contempt for God.

The self-establishment of superiority by one group that leads to the mistreatment or oppression of other groups is an affront to God. Treating those uniquely different from you with dignity, respect & equality is not just a suggestion or good manners, it's one of the core mandates emerging out of Genesis 1 & carried through the remainder of all scripture. #EqualityIsKingdom

WE ARE
MANY
WE ARE
ONE

Prayer for the Human Family

Oh God, you made us in your own image
and redeemed us through Jesus your Son;
Look with compassion on the whole human family;
take away the arrogance & hatred which infect our hearts;
break down the walls that separate us;
unite us in bonds of love;
and work through our struggle and confusion
to accomplish your purposes on earth;
that, in your good time,
all nations and races may serve you in harmony
around your heavenly throne;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

RACE & GRACE

From one race emerged a diversity of peoples, nationalities, & cultures. Instead of ignoring these distinctions, God fully acknowledges & highlights them - Not for divisive or polarizing purposes, but for honoring diversity as a reflection of His creativity, heart, will, & purposes.

We should acknowledge this diversity in order to:

- Honor the differences.
- Celebrate the differences.
- Integrate the differences to make us a stronger whole.
- Pay attention to diverse ways those differing from us in ethnicity & culture reflect & reveal the image, creativity, purposes & perspectives of God.
- Understand the unique experiences of those differing from us in ethnicity & culture so that we can learn how to best love, relate to, support, learn from, be strengthened by, live missional & do justly among one another.

Reflection Questions

What does it look like for you to pay attention to how God reveals himself in other ethnicities?

Do people see Jesus in you? Do they see Christ in your church?

What would you hear if you asked people of other ethnicities to answer these questions?

Do you invite those of a different ethnicity to your dinner table?

Do you celebrate the distinctives or strengths of other ethnicities?

How have you intentionally expressed honor toward an ethnicity different than your own?

Do your discipleship & spiritual learning experiences include the voices of people of color?

Do you talk to your children about race to help them share the same perspective as God does?

Are you cultivating quality friendships with those of a different ethnicity?

Where in your life do you voluntarily & regularly place yourself under black or minority leadership?

RACE & DISGRACE

Throughout human history, people have used the uniqueness of ethnos or nationality to differentiate themselves from others. All too often, instead of recognizing God's image in one another & in those distinctives, people elevated their group over other ethnic groups & marked them for unequal treatment. In the United States, this took the form of white supremacy over Blacks, Native Americans, & other ethnic minorities. Sadly, even some Christian churches succumbed to the temptation of racial & ethnic superiority.



During the birth of America, with the specific intent to divide, devalue, & dominate a people group, race as a social construct based on physical appearance came into being & was the basis for Europeans (whites) using race as a way to dehumanize, enslave & brutalize blacks.

Most of America's racial issues are deeply rooted in this great wrong.

PRAY

Racism is much more than a "spiritual" problem. But it is, at its origins, a spiritual problem. The roots & breadth of it, so ingrained in the nation, can only be truly pushed back & largely rendered impotent by the people of God confronting it in prayer. Pause here & pray for racism to be uprooted from every stratum of our society, systems, structures.

Interactive Element:

A larger leafy plant pulled out of its pot with its roots exposed.

Instruction card:

Pull one leaf from the plant, write on it. 'Never Again'. Take it with you & place on your desk or bedside table. Over the next week continue to pray for racism to be uprooted from our society & watch the leaf wither as a symbol of God responding to your prayers.

Recommended images:

Slavery, lynching, KKK, for whites only & for blacks only segregation signs, images of fire hoses & dogs loosed on civil rights protestors, etc.