

SERMON SERIES: Right Now: Racism
SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer
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Key Line

Racism is a sin that is deeply offensive to God.

Introduction

The events of the last week have caused people to do a lot of soul searching.

- How have you felt about the events of the last few weeks?
- If you feel comfortable sharing, describe how racism has affected you personally.

Seek the Word

Read Genesis 1:26-27.

- God made us in his image. What does that mean? *(We were created to look like God in our humanity and in the people we are, no matter what our skin color or outward appearance.)*
- Why doesn't the Bible say which ethnicity and skin color Adam and Eve were? *(God did not tell us because it was not significant to him. He made us all humans and loved us as we are, no matter what ethnicity we are.)*

Read Deuteronomy 10:17-19.

- According to this passage, how does God feel about all people? *(He shows no partiality.)*
- How does God treat the fatherless, widows, and those who are immigrants? *(He shows no partiality. He defends them. He loves all people.)*

Read Luke 10:25-37.

- Who were Samaritans? How did the Jews feel about them? *(They thought they were defiled because they were Jewish people who had intermarried with non-Jewish people. Jews hated them and thought they were less than human.)*
- How did Jesus say we should treat those who are different, like the Samaritans? *(We should love them and treat each other as humans who God loves.)*

Read Acts 10:34-35.

- What does this verse tell us about racism? *(God accepts all people without showing favoritism.)*

- Everyone has favorites: favorite teams, favorite music, favorite hobbies. When does favoritism become sinful? *(When we think of ourselves as better than someone else because of the color of our skin. When we think we are more important and more human because of our skin color. When we refuse to value and listen to those who are different from us.)*

Read Galatians 3:26-28.

- What happens to our differences when we become Christians? *(We become children of God. Our differences do not disappear, but we do not determine our importance based on different cultures, socioeconomic statuses, skin colors.)*

Read Revelation 7:9-10.

- When John described what he saw in his vision of Heaven, what did he say about who was there worshipping God? *(There were people from all nations and all ethnicities, all tribes and languages, all worshipping God together.)*
- If Heaven is full of all people from all places, what is our role in the world in regard to race? *(We should try to restore that and refuse to show favoritism. We must work toward that acceptance of all people.)*

Talk About It

Scott described three things we can do today:

1. Call it out. When you see racism happening, call it out and do not let it pass by without pointing out that it is happening.
 2. Seek meaningful information and conversation. Talk to others who are different from you. Listen to them and do not try to say it isn't happening. Believe them. Come alongside others and sit with them in their pain.
 3. Learn to build bridges between people and between people and Jesus. Don't build walls between people but build bridges.
- How will you take action this week? What can you understand and do differently?