

One Race

The Human Race

Many different nations, races, ethnicities

- But God's favorite is...
- No favorite, of course, because "there is no partiality with God" (Romans 2:11).
- God does have His "own special people" (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 2:9)—His church or His body, but even it is composed of those from "every tribe and tongue and people and nations" (Rev. 5:9).

In reality, there is only ONE race

- The human race.
- “And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living” (Genesis 3:20).
- “And He has made from ONE blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...” (Acts 17:26).

Consider three things every single member of the human race has in common (male or female; red, yellow, black or white; rich or poor; moral or immoral; law abiding or criminal; saint or sinner, etc.).

These should affect both the way we view others and the way we treat them.

#1 Every person is the work of His hands— His creation, His offspring.

- “Yet He is not partial to princes, nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands” (Job 34:19).
- “If I have despised the cause of my male or female servant when they complained against me, what then shall I do when God rises up? When he punishes, how shall I answer Him? Did not He who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one fashion us in the womb? (Job 31:13–15).
 - Note the effect this had on Job’s behavior.

#1 Every person is the work of His hands— His creation, His offspring.

- Go back to Genesis 2 and see the special way in which God made the first man and the first woman (formed man from the dust, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, took a rib from Adam and made Eve).
- We're not arguing that this exact process is repeated with the birth of every human, and yet, consider the following passages (next slide).

#1 Every person is the work of His hands— His creation, His offspring.

- “Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it” (Isaiah 42:5).
 - Consider the uniqueness of humans, with “spirit, soul, and body” (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- God “gives to all life, breath, and all things...in Him we live and move and have our being...we are also His offspring” (Acts 17:25, 28).

#2 Every person is made in the image of God.

- “Let Us make man in Our **image**, according to Our **likeness**...so God created man in His own **image**... male and female He created them (Gen. 1:26–27).
- “Whoever sheds man’s blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the **image** of God He made man” (Gen. 9:6).

#2 Every person is made in the image of God.

- Consider Matthew 22:17–22, where Jesus asks, “Whose image and inscription is this?” (on a coin).
 - Whose image should we “see” when we look at another human?
- “No man can tame the tongue...with it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the **likeness** of God... these things ought not to be so” (James 3:8–10).

#3 Every person is someone for whom Christ died.

- “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself” (John 12:32).
- Read all of 1 Timothy 2:1–7, especially where it says God “desires all men to be saved,” and where it says Jesus “gave Himself a ransom for all.”
- Paul said Jesus “loved me and gave Himself for Me” (Galatians 2:20).
 - What Jesus did for Paul, he did for every single member of the human race.

If all these things are true—if every person is the offspring of God, if every person is made in the image of God, if every person is so loved by God that He sent His Son to die for them, how should we expect God to treat them?

And once we answer that, we'll know how WE should treat them.

God is good to every single member of the human race.

- “The LORD is **good** to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works” (Psalms 145:9).
- “Makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust (Matt. 5:45).
- “He did **good**, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17).
- So orders His creation that all “should seek the Lord” (Acts 17:27).

And so we should show that same goodness

- “Love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil” (Luke 6:35).
 - Be kind, even to the unthankful and evil? Yes, that is what God does and so should His children.
- “As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith” (Galatians 6:10)

And so we should show that same goodness

- Do we see that there is a level of dignity and respect, a level of goodness, that we should show to every member of the human race?
- Hopefully, our recognition of their value in the eyes of God will motivate us to fulfill the Great Commission (and make us more effective).
 - “Make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28:19).
 - “Preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).