

It all comes together
with the Gospel

YOU AND ME



Gen 3

20 Adam named his wife **Eve**, because she would become **the mother of all the living.**





Genesis 11

1 Now the whole world had **one language** and a common speech. 2 As men moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there. 3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, **so that we may make a name for ourselves** and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower that the men were building.

6 The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, **let us go down and confuse their language** so they will not understand each other."

8 So **the LORD scattered them** from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel--because there the LORD confused the language of the whole world. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

Racial Dynamics in the OT

“Love your Neighbour, Hate
your Enemy...”

Isaiah 49 v6

I will also make you
a light for the
Gentiles, that you
may bring my
salvation to the ends
of the earth."



The **Causes** of Racism and Prejudice

What the New Testament Teaches about Race

1. The Great Commission

Mt 28

19 Therefore go and **make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 1

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the ends of the earth."**

2. The Ministry of Jesus



John 4

4 Now **he had to go through Samaria...**7
When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (**For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.**)

3. Pentecost: A Reversal of Babel



Acts 2

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem
God-fearing **Jews from every nation
under heaven.** 6 When they heard this
sound, a crowd came together in
bewilderment, because **each one heard
them speaking in his own language.**

7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome¹¹ (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

4. The Samaritan Pentecost Acts 8



14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

5. A Racial Problem in the Church

Acts 6

1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the **Grecian** Jews among them complained against the **Hebraic** Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose **Stephen**, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also **Philip**, **Procorus**, **Nicanor**, **Timon**, **Parmenas**, and **Nicolas from Antioch**, a convert to **Judaism**. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

6. Peter's Prejudice

Acts 10

1 At Caesarea there was a man named **Cornelius**, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

34 Then Peter began to speak:

"I now realize how true it is that
God does not show favouritism 35
but accepts men from every
nation who fear him and do what
is right."

7. The Power of the Gospel

Eph 2

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

Gal 3

25 Now that faith has come... 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 **There is neither Jew nor Greek,** slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Rev 7

9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. 10 And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."



James 2

1 My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, **don't show favouritism.**

Favouritism (noun)

“the practice of giving unfair preferential treatment to one person or group at the expense of another.”

synonyms:

partiality, partisanship, preferential treatment, favour, prejudice, bias, inequality, unfairness, discrimination

Prejudice

‘an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough thought or knowledge.’

James 2

1 My brothers, **as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ**, don't show favouritism.

2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

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Proverbs 19 v4

Wealth brings many
friends...

Proverbs 14v20

The poor person is shunned by his
neighbour, but many are the friends of the
wealthy.



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Matt 5

46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Luke 14

12 Then Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. 13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

A South African Example

- In 1857 the **NGK** synod decided to have separate services for coloured members.
- A separate church, the **Dutch Reformed Mission Church** (DRMC) was formed in 1881.
- For blacks, the **Dutch Reformed Church in Africa** (DRCA) was formed in 1951.
- In 1994 the DRMC and the DRCA united to form the **Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa** (URCSA).

5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have insulted the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are slandering the noble name of him to whom you belong?

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Luke 6

20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "**Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.**

21 Blessed are **you who hunger now**, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you

will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man...24

"But **woe to you who are rich**, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well

fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep.

5 Listen, my dear brothers: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

Luke 4

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me **to preach good news to the poor**. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

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James 1

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face **trials of many kinds**, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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James 5

1 Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you.
2 Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3 Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire.

You have **hoarded wealth** in the last days. 4 Look! The **wages you failed to pay the workmen** who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty.5 You have lived on earth in **luxury and self-indulgence**. You have **fattened yourselves** in the day of slaughter. 6 You have **condemned and murdered innocent men**, who were not opposing you.

Showing Favouritism
is contrary to God's Law

8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

10 For **whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.** 11 For he who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker. 12 Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, 13 because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!

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- Christians are still going to be "judged".
(V12)

2 Cor 5v16

So from now on **we regard no one from a worldly point of view**. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.

Philippians 3

4 If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 **But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss** for the sake of Christ.

James 2

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