

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Racism**

"Racism is a refuge for the ignorant. It seeks to divide and to destroy. It is the enemy of freedom, and deserves to be met head-on and stamped out." – Pierre Berton

"You can't delete racism. It's like a cigarette. You can't stop smoking if you don't want to, and you can't stop racism if people don't want to. But I'll do everything I can to help." – Mario Balotelli

"You don't fight racism with racism, the best way to fight racism is with solidarity." – Bobby Seale

"Racism is beyond common sense and has no place in our society." – Steven Patrick Morrissey

"By the 1960s, many of us believed that the Civil Rights Movement could eliminate racism in America during our lifetime. But despite significant progress, racism remains." – Bill Cosby

"Red or yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world." Isn't it ironic that we teach that song to our children yet many adults still don't see it that way?

Racism has been defined, "Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior." People of all nationalities and skin colors over thousands of years have exhibited racism.

Some might be surprised when they realize that Moses chose for himself a wife from Ethiopia. His own brother and sister were not happy with his decision. "Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman" (Num. 12:1).

The proverbial sparks also flew in the first century between the Jews, Gentiles, and Samaritans. The racism or prejudice was certainly evident in the account with the Lord and the woman at the well. "Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, 'How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?' For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans" (John 4:9).

Paul, in his writings to the churches of Galatia, had to put to rest this animosity between races. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:28-29).

It is no secret that many a child of God today was raised in a home where feelings of racism flourished. But that must be overcome. There is no place for it in the Lord's church.