

STUDY GUIDE

'Racial reconciliation' has become a catch phrase in today's society. Are instituting 'affirmative action' or forbidding racial profiling the answer?

1. Evolution is inherently a racist philosophy and has provided justification for racist attitudes:
 - a. The full title of Charles Darwin's book is *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the **Preservation of the Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*** (emphasis added).
 - b. Australian Aborigines were once considered the 'missing link' because of evolutionary indoctrination.
 - c. Ota Benga, a pygmy, was displayed in an American zoo, as an example of an 'inferior race.'
 - d. Hitler's atrocities were based on evolutionary philosophy.
2. The Biblical view is that all humans are 'one':
 - a. Alleged Biblical support for racist attitudes
 - The 'Curse of Ham' resulted in black people (Genesis 9:19–27). However, there is no 'curse on Ham' anywhere in the Bible! Noah actually placed the curse on one of Ham's sons, Canaan (whose descendants eventually settled in Sodom and Gomorrah and were not 'black'), possibly because Noah saw in Canaan the same character trait (e.g. rebellion) that he saw in Ham. This curse has nothing to do with a person's skin color.
 - b. Biblical principles for considering 'interracial' marriage
 - i. Because all people groups are members of the human race, there is, technically, no such thing as 'interracial' marriage (Galatians 3:28, Romans 10:12–13, Colossians 3:11).
 - ii. The primary purpose of marriage is to produce Godly offspring (Malachi 2:15).
 - iii. Marriage enables two people to become 'one' (Ephesians 5:31, Matthew 19:4,5). Thus, Christians should only

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marry Christians (2 Corinthians 6:14). True ‘interracial’ marriage occurs when a child of the Last Adam marries a child of the First Adam. E.g. The Israelites were commanded not to marry people from other cultures only because they were godless, pagan people-groups. However, Rahab, although a descendant of Ham, became a believer and married an Israelite. Ruth, a Moabitess, repented and married an Israelite. Both women are listed in the genealogy of Christ.

- iv. There may be cross-cultural communication problems or cultural stigmas to deal with when individuals from different people groups marry.
- v. Ultimately, the decision regarding whom an individual chooses to marry (provided he/she is an believer) is between the individual and the Lord.

CONCLUSION

Racist attitudes can be justified by evolutionary beliefs. However the Bible does not support or condone the view that one people group is superior to another. Rather, it clearly teaches that all people-groups are of the same ‘race’—human—and that we are all equal before God. True ‘racial reconciliation’ can only be realized when Biblical authority is upheld and individuals understand the truth of human ancestry, namely that we are all descendants of the first man, Adam, and are therefore all related.

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Q U O T E S

Stephen Jay Gould, *Ontogeny and Phylogeny*, Belknap-Harvard Press, p. 127–128, 1977.

Biological arguments for racism may have been common before 1850, but they increased by orders of magnitude following the acceptance of evolutionary theory. The litany is familiar: cold, dispassionate, objective, modern science shows us that races can be ranked on a scale of superiority. If this offends Christian morality or a sentimental belief in human unity, so be it; science must be free to proclaim unpleasant truths. But the data were worthless ... If the chorus of racist arguments did not follow a constraint of data, it must have reflected social prejudice pure and simple ...

Arthur H.J. Keane, 'Anthropological curiosities; the Pygmies of the World,' *Scientific American*, Supplement 1650, 64:99, pp. 107–108, 1907.

The personal appearance, characteristics, and traits of the Congo pygmies...[show that they are] small, apelike, elfish creatures, furtive and mischievous, they closely parallel the brownies and goblins of our fairy tales. They live in the dense tangled forests in absolute savagery, and while they exhibit many ape-like features in their bodies, they possess a certain alertness, which appears to make them more intelligent than other Negroes.

Ernst Haeckel, *The History of Creation: Or the Development of the Earth and its Inhabitants by the Action of Natural Causes*, translated by Prof. E. Ray Lankester (London: Henry S King & Co, 1876), Vol II, pp. 362, 363.

Nothing, however, is perhaps more remarkable in this respect, than that some of the wildest tribes in southern Asia and Eastern Africa have no trace whatever of the first foundations of all human civilization, of family life, and marriage. They live together in herds, like apes, generally climbing on trees and eating fruits; they do not know of fire, and use stones and clubs as weapons, just like the higher apes.

Ernst Haeckel, *The History of Creation: Or the Development of the Earth and its Inhabitants by the Action of Natural Causes*, translated by Prof. E. Ray Lankester (London: Henry S King & Co, 1876), Vol II, pp. 362, 363.

At the lowest stage of human mental development are the Australians, some tribes of the Polynesians, and the Bushmen, Hottentots, and some of the Negro tribes.

We're All the Same, www.abcnews.com/sections/science/DyeHard/dye72.html, September 10, 1998.

More and more scientists find that the differences that set us apart are cultural, not racial. Some even say that the word 'race' should be abandoned because it's meaningless.

We accept the idea of race because it's a convenient way of putting people in broad categories, frequently to suppress them.... The most hideous example was provided by Hitler's Germany. And racial prejudice remains common throughout the world.

Bruce McConkie, *Apostle of the Mormon council of 12, Mormon Doctrine*, p. 554, 1958.

We know the circumstances under which the posterity of Cain (and later of Ham) were cursed with what we call Negroid racial characteristics.

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Q U O T E S

Hugh Ross, 'Genesis One, Dinosaurs, and Cavemen,'
<www.reasons.org/kidsspace/dinocave.html>, September
29, 1999.

Starting about two to four million years ago, God began creating man-like mammals or 'hominids.' These creatures stood on two feet, had large brains, and used tools. Some even buried their dead and painted on cave walls. However, they were very different from us. They had no spirit. They did not have a conscience like we do. They did not worship God or establish religious practices. In time, all these man-like creatures went extinct. Then, about 10 to 25 thousand years ago, God replaced them with Adam and Eve.

'The Golden Age,' *The Watchtower* (now is called
Awake!), July 24, 1929: 702.

The curse which Noah pronounced upon Canaan was
the origin of the black race.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is evolution the cause of racism? If not, what is?
2. How have evolutionary ideas fueled racist attitudes?
3. Describe, in your own words, why racist attitudes are wrong, according to the Bible. What should our attitudes be toward different people groups?

RESOURCES

Where did the 'races' come from?
by Ken Ham

The (Revised and Expanded) Answers Book
edited by Dr Don Batten

One Blood: The Biblical Answer to Racism
by Ken Ham

Four Big Questions
edited by Dr Don Batten