

# What COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, and 'Woke' America is Revealing About the Church

## Racial Reconciliation and the Bible

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

- Ephesians 2:11-22

"The gospel is about much more than how we get saved and go to heaven. The gospel is about the work of Christ saturating every aspect of our lives."

- Voddie Baucham

## 2 Big Questions

What does God say about us?

Is what God says about us \_\_\_\_\_?

The new "hermeneutic\*" ...

Sin as \_\_\_\_\_ v. sin as being in the  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Biblical hermeneutics is the study of the principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible. 2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers to be involved in hermeneutics: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who ... correctly handles the word of truth." The purpose of biblical hermeneutics is to help us to know how to properly interpret, understand, and apply the Bible.

**Racial reconciliation does not need to be achieved, but \_\_\_\_\_**

v. 11-12: *Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.*

First, consider the *bad news*: To understand the magnitude of the reconciliation, you have to understand the magnitude of the \_\_\_\_\_.

The division that God overcomes is more significant than any we face.

Race is \_\_\_\_\_ ...

We are of multiple \_\_\_\_\_, but one race.

The difference between Jew and Gentile was \_\_\_\_\_ and established by God Himself.

v. 13: *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

The only thing that can reconcile us is \_\_\_\_\_.

Since the blood of Christ reconciles, looking for reconciliation through other means is \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 14-16: *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.*

4 times we see the word \_\_\_\_\_.

He Himself is our peace.

This "peace" is ...

We don't just put down our arms and stop \_\_\_\_\_ one another. We \_\_\_\_\_ one another.

This reconciliation makes us \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 17-18: <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

It does not matter who you are or where you are; you need \_\_\_\_\_!

The \_\_\_\_\_ needed the blood of Christ in order to be reconciled to God – and so did the \_\_\_\_\_!

Why?

Because God is no \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 19-22: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

That ^ is racial reconciliation.

It is not something you have to \_\_\_\_\_. It is something that you and I have to \_\_\_\_\_.

Our starting point on race: **The Bible is sufficient.**

**Next week:**

What do we need to know about "identity politics", Critical Race Theory", and "intersectionality"?

What's a *biblical* response to Black Lives Matters?

What does it mean to be "Woke", and should I be?

What can we do as a church be ministers of reconciliation?