

The Human Race

Acts 17:26

Introduction: Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and prominent activist and civil rights leader that used non violent protests, civil disobedience and legislative action to advance the rights of people of color through the civil rights act, voting rights act and fair housing act all in the mid to late 1960's. He is best known for his, "I have a dream" speech delivered on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. Dr. King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. on April 4, 1968. Martin Luther King Jr. day was signed into federal law in 1986 by president Ronald Reagan. Race Relations and the divisive nature of them tend to make us want to shy away from such topics. But as in all things as followers of Christ we should know what the scriptures teach in this area and be prepared to be salt and light to the culture in this area as well.

1. Fundamental truths
 - a. There is one race, the human race.
 - b. All people are created in the image of God. Gen. 1:26
 - c. Prejudice and racism on any people group is sin. Jm. 4:1
2. The origin of the different races.
 - a. Not the result of a curse.
 - b. Started at the tower of Babel
3. Our identity is in Christ. Col. 3:11, Gal.3:28
 - a. Not in our race
 - b. Not in our profession
 - c. Not in our sexuality
4. What about slavery in the Bible?
 - a. Egypt was the first nation to impose harsh slavery on the Israelites. Ex. 1:13-14
 - b. The Bible prohibits harsh slavery. Dt. 24:7, Lev. 25:43
 - c. Christian influence played a great part in ending slavery.
 - d. Philemon
5. Jesus our example
 - a. The woman at the well
 - b. The good Samaritan.
6. How to deal with the race issue today?
 - a. We are to take every thought captive. 2 Cor. 10:4-5
 - b. We are to overcome evil with good. Rm. 12:21
 - c. We are to be ministers of reconciliation not division. 2 Cor. 5:18-19
 - d. Remember the diversity of the current and the coming kingdom. Rev. 7:9-10