

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER ATLANTA
CRITICAL CONVERSATIONS, PT. 5
SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 – BILLY HUMPHREY

I. The American Dilemma

- A. Since the time of the Civil Rights movement in America much progress has been made in regard to race relations.
- B. Although progress has been made there is still much ground to take in regard to seeing racial healing and unity in America.
- C. In recent days White Nationalists have been emboldened to espouse racist ideologies. At the same time “Black Lives Matter” has become a household name.
- D. Within the last several weeks there have been demonstrations that have gained national attention in Charlottesville and St. Louis.
- E. The issues aren’t going away and the loudest voices on the subject tend to be those with a political or financial agenda.
- F. The church must take a lead in speaking to this issue with clarity, compassion, and truth. Unfortunately to this day, 86% of churches in America are racially segregated.

II. Scientific Racism

- A. The concept of “Race” as a system of classification emphasizing differing skin colors was first used in the 1700’s.
- B. By the 1800’s scientific debate on “Race” grew beyond identifying physical differences to include the concept that “racial variation” was a result of humans having different origins.
- C. These classifications set humans in a hierarchy and formed the basis for white supremacists thinking and justifications for slavery, segregation and the racist doctrine of anti-Semitism practiced in Nazi Germany.
- D. W.E.B Du Bois was the first argue that race was nota useful scientific category, and showed that race was merely a social construct.
- E. The concepts of scientific racism were ultimately discredited by the 1950’s, however, the terms that were originally used to categorize people (Caucasoid, Negroid, Mongoloid) remained.
- F. The idea of racial distinctions is now commonly understood as a social invention that has no scientific basis or standing.¹ In fact, on average, each human being is 99.5% similar in DNA to every other human being.

¹ Dr. Audrey Smedley, Professor of Anthropology at Virginia Common Wealth University and author of the *New Millennial edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica’s entry on ‘race.*

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III. The Biblical Concept of Race

Acts 17:26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth...

Genesis 3:20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

- A. The bible is absolutely clear that the entirety of the human race shares the same blood and are descended from the same single parents: Adam & Eve.
- B. There is only one race of people, human beings. Within the human race there are many different cultures, described biblically as tribes, tongues, peoples, and nations (Rev 5:9, 7:9, 14:6).

IV. God's Desire in our Differences

Rev 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

- A. The dream of God's heart is a bride for His Son from every tribe tongue people and nation.
- B. He wants a bride that is comparable to Him and represents His very nature. God made us all different, across many tribes, tongues, peoples and nations, in order to capture the myriad beauty of who He is. The entire tapestry of the human creation is an expression of the multi-faceted majesty of God.

V. Jesus Desire for the Church

John 17:20-23 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

- A. Jesus praying just before His crucifixion asks the father to bring His bride to "complete unity". Unity in the bride is testimony the world needs to see to know the truth of Jesus identity.
- B. Love and unity across cultures will be a powerful sign to the world as people continue to divide across cultural lines (Mat 24:7)