

Biblical Statement on Ethnic Diversity & Racism

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10)

The Bible we embrace as the Word of God teaches that all people have inherent dignity, value and worth simply because they are created in God’s image.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

This dignity and unity was fractured as humanity chose love of self rather than love of God and others. One result of this fracturing is racially elevating one group of people over/against another and building systems of oppression. God’s response has always been to fix the brokenness of His world by adopting people from all backgrounds into a family for Himself.

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:2-3)

This was and is seen most clearly in the church Jesus founded; a family that unites people from all ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds under the banner of loving, trusting, and following Jesus.

“For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.” (Galatians 3:27–29)

The fullness of Jesus’ church and the kingdom of God will be realized in a future day when people from every nation, ethnic group, and language stand before the throne of God as those purchased by the blood of Jesus.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb...and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.” (Revelation 7:9a,11b-12)

As we await Jesus’ return and the full and complete end of racism, we seek to put to death the love of self and elevate a love of God and others, bringing the kingdom of God into a broken and fractured world.

“And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

With this teaching of the Bible in mind, the Vine Church condemns the sin of racism in all its forms and seek, the repentance, confession, and reconciliation offered through Jesus and His church (Psalms 51:17, 139:23-24, Gal. 3:28). We reject any valuing of one ethnicity over others as this is contrary to the kingdom God is building. We recognize as sin any past silence in the face of racism and preferring our own comfort over the discomfort that comes from speaking against prejudice (Prov. 31:8-9). We also recognize as sin anytime our hearts have been dull to the suffering of others and we seek to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:14). We also desire to listen to the voices and wisdom of our brothers and sisters who have experienced the demeaning realities of racism (Prov. 10:19, James 1:19). We undertake to act in the interest of biblical justice in the places where God has given us influence (Isa. 1:17, Micah 6:8, Ps. 82:2-4). We seek to pray and actively work for God’s kingdom to come and his will to be done on this earth as it is in heaven.