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A Key to Racial Harmony

by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., 1995, 1997

Edited and Annotated by David Sielaff, September 2019

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The creator of all the races on earth is Jesus Christ according to the apostle Paul in Colossians 1:15–17.¹ He made the various ethnic groups to be the way they are in outward color and with their learned cultural and psychological differences. And what a variety of people Christ has created! He has done it for a purpose, a very good and honorable purpose. Remarkably, when the first writing of the creation narrative was given in Genesis chapter one, the outcome of God’s creation (accomplished by Christ) was the fact that all His creation was “**very good**” (Genesis 1:31).

“God said, ‘Let us make man [adam] in our image, after our likeness’ ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” (Genesis 1:26–27). He did not say He was making children of God, not yet, but that is God’s goal which will complete the image and likeness in each individual descendant of Adam. Note what the apostle Paul said at Mars Hill in Athens, Greece:

“[God] has made of one all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; ... as certain also of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also his offspring.’ Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God ...”

• Acts 17:26, 28–29

The “**offspring of God**” are not “**children of God**” yet, but they will be. Paul gives us a clear explanation in Romans chapter 8 on how to identify the “**sons of God**” or better in context, the “**children of God**”:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of

¹ Note Paul’s description of what Christ did in creation, as well as Paul’s emphasis on “**all things**.” Colossians 1:15–17:

“[He] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

• **Romans 8:14–17**

This is the precise reason why humankind was created in the first place. All of Adam are made in **“the image of God”** as His offspring. God did this so all His **“offspring”** can become intimate members of His very Family. **“And as we have borne the image of the earthy [of Adam], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly”** (1 Corinthians 15:49). Every **“offspring”** will become a **“child of God”** and obtain the full heavenly image of God and Christ at our future resurrection.

The Various Races of Adam Have a Purpose

None of us has the power or authority to question the creative purposes of God, nor are we given the position of criticizing the creation that Christ made. What we should do is ask the question: WHY did the Creator do the things that He did, and for what purpose? Christ created all things to work in harmony with one another, and this includes all races of people He created. What all of us need to apply in life is **“A Key to Racial Harmony.”**

God does not look or act like a horse, a bull, an eagle or a dove, but He does have a shape that can be perceived (John 5:37) by those in the spirit realm, when He chooses to be seen. To us now He is imperceptible (Deuteronomy 4:12; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17, 6:16; 1 John 4:12) until we are justified to be worthy through Christ and glorified to be in our Father’s presence (1 John 3:2). God our Father is found today to look like Jesus Christ — or better stated as Paul says — Christ is in **“the express image”** of the Father:

“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power,² when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high ...”

• **Hebrews 1:3**

This means God the Father looks and acts like a man, or more accurately, mankind looks and acts like God, the Creator of all things in the universe. Christ Jesus is the **“express image”** of His Father. All human beings born from Adam and Eve, without exception, are to be **“conformed to the image of his Son”** (Romans 8:29).³ Of course, this includes all races of those children of Adam — again without exception.

Text of Hebrews 2:9–14	Comments
<p>“⁹But we see Jesus, who was</p> <p>[1] <i>made a little lower than the angels</i></p> <p>[2] for the suffering of death,</p> <p>[3] <i>crowned with glory and honor,</i></p> <p>[4] that <u>he</u> by the grace of God <u>should taste death FOR EVERY MAN.</u></p> <p>¹⁰For it became him,</p> <p><u>FOR WHOM ARE ALL THINGS, and</u></p> <p><u>BY WHOM ARE ALL THINGS,</u></p>	<p>Quoting Psalm 8:5 (King James Version):</p> <p>“... made him a little lower than the angels [↙] ... crowned him with glory and honor.”</p> <p>This includes all people, for all time, since Adam.⁴</p> <p>He made it His responsibility to perform those acts.</p> <p>All things were made <u>for</u> and on behalf of Christ.</p> <p>All creation was made <u>by</u> Jesus the Son of God.</p>

² Note that the Son is **“upholding all things by the word of his power”** (Hebrews 1:3). This conforms to the words of Colossians 1:17: **“by him all things consist.”** Both indicate ongoing actions being performed by the Son at this present moment. DWS

³ The word “image” in Greek is *ikon*, a common term meaning likeness or image used 23 times in the New Testament.

⁴ Read 2 Corinthians 5:14–15:

“For the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.”

DWS

in bringing [the] **MANY SONS** unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹ For both he that sanctifies and they who are sanctified **ARE ALL OF ONE**:

for which cause he is not ashamed to call them **BRETHREN**,

¹² saying,

'I will declare your name unto **MY BRETHREN**, in the midst of **the church** will I sing praise unto **you**.'

And again, 'I will put my trust **in him**.'

¹³ And again,

'Behold I [Jesus] **AND THE CHILDREN WHICH GOD HAS GIVEN ME**.'

¹⁴ Forasmuch then as **the children ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD**, he [Jesus] **also himself likewise took part of the same**."

The Greek has the definite article: "**bringing the many sons unto glory**," which means all people.

We are all **ONE** in Christ and in the Father (Galatians 3:28), no matter who we are. Jesus is "**the firstborn among many brethren**" (Romans 8:29).

Quoting Psalm 22:22,

"**I will declare your name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise YOU**."

Citing Isaiah 12:2. The trust is in God the Father.

Quoting Isaiah 8:18, "**Behold, I and the children whom YHWH has given me**," children given to Christ by the Father for His glory.

Jesus became **flesh and blood** so he can share with His brethren.

The key text in this discourse by Paul describes the cardinal position that all of us now have in Christ because of His life, death, and resurrection from the dead, which He performed on our behalf. That central verse is this: "**They who are sanctified ARE ALL OF ONE**" (Hebrews 2:11). We are all **ONE** in the Father. We are all **ONE** in each other through God's Spirit. This is the real teaching of the Bible, and most Christians until the 4th century AD believed it to be the simple teaching of salvation.

The apostle Paul spoke to people who lived in the Mediterranean world in the 1st century AD. He was not talking only to Hebrews alone (as the title of this epistle might suggest), because there was no title to this exposition called Hebrews until the 2nd century. The fact is this work of Paul was not intended to go to the Jews alone. It was an epistle or sermon designed to explain in a universal sense what God had done to fulfill the rituals and ceremonies associated with the Temple and the Jewish people. The audience that Paul intended to reach was those who needed and wanted a full explanation of what the early teachings given to Moses were meant to convey to Israel, teachings that would reach out eventually to embrace all the people on earth.⁵

The central theme of Hebrews was the essential and absolute truth that God the Father through Christ was intending to show a sanctification of all in the earth [**"for every man,"** verse 9 above], and to show **"that** [as a result] **He** [Christ] **that sanctifies and they** [all of us] **who are sanctified ARE ALL OF ONE** (verse 11). We are destined (and are already) **ONE** with Christ and the Father, and **ONE** in ourselves with each other!

[This is true, whether people know and understand this truth or not. All will come to understand these truths eventually, although most will learn them after death in their individual and personal time of judgment and education. It is God's will (1 Timothy 2:4–6). *DWS*]

The scriptures show that Christ is simply our Elder Brother and we all together will become sons and daughters of the very Family of the living God, the **ONE** who is supreme and infinite in the entirety of this universe. In a word, Christ Jesus came into this earth to make each one of us a very member (a **SON** and a **DAUGHTER**) of the God and Father of all creation. Christ Jesus came to make us capable of sitting on the right hand of the Father in heaven (where we are now sitting in a legal sense, Ephesians 2:6). This is because each of us is now found in Christ who is now (in an actual sense) in that very position. This is a glorious future indeed that we all have in Christ.

The **ONENESS** that we have in the Father and Christ transcends our various racial characteristics that we

⁵ Read Dr. Martin's excellent article "[The Book of Hebrews](#)." It explains a great deal more about the purpose of this fascinating sermon and epistle written for us in the New Testament. *DWS*

now possess. Paul said that we are a new man [a new creation] now in the image of God: We have:

“... put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him [God] that created him [the new man]: here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies [great compassion], kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering ...”

• *Colossians 3:10–12*

We are no longer (in the eyes of the Father) citizens of any of the countries of this world. We are now reckoned by God as citizens of the heavenly abode of God the Father.

“For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

• *Philippians 3:20–21*

We are all to have a body like God the Father’s and that of Christ Jesus, and sitting on the right hand of the Father in heaven. Even now, however, we are acknowledged by the Father as being His divine children even while we are in this flesh and living our daily lives. The apostle John said:

“Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons [children] of God. ...

Beloved, NOW are we the sons [children] of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

• *1 John 3:1–2*

We will be in the same body form and composition as Christ will be at his Second Advent.

What is wonderful is the fact that this destiny is one that is afforded to all people on earth, no matter what race or social standing people have at present. We humans are all (no matter if we are brown, red, yellow, black, white, green, blue, or polka dot) destined to be SONS and DAUGHTERS of the very God and Father of the entirety of the universe. We all have a grand and glorious destiny, no matter what race and ethnic group we were born into. And, it is with this knowledge that we should begin our quest to have racial harmony among the various peoples whom God has created on earth. We ALL need to know WHO WE ARE.

Where to Start, Once We Know Who We Are

Each one of you reading this article needs to go to a full-length mirror in the bathroom (if you have one) and look at yourself. It would make the point clearer if you were “*au natural*” when you did it (though I would not be so bold as to demand such a thing). There is a reason for suggesting this. As for me, I can see at least a score of things about my physical structure that I would want improved when God resurrects me from the dead. And I can think of several ways to make me a better looking than I am now.

I am not the only one who has said this. I have heard some women say (for example), why has God given me such straight and thin hair? In the resurrection, I want thicker and curlier hair. Then I have also heard other women say, why has God given me such curly and thick hair? I want my hair to be straight and thin in the resurrection. None of us should go to extremes complaining to God for making us the way we are, or for allowing things to happen that limit us. We can all find ways to improve ourselves physically.⁶

But it does not stop there. There are also many psychological differences in humans, and even within the same families. Some of us might say, I wish I were not so shy. If I could just be an extrovert I would be much happier. Others could say, I wish I had more confidence and faith like Bill or Mary.

⁶ See my 2003 article “[Forgiving God](#)” about misjudging and blaming God for how things that happen in our lives. DWS

I could increase these examples ten-fold, but instead of doing that, you no doubt get my point about the things we do not like about ourselves. What I am trying to show, however, is this: we should learn to get along and be in harmony WITH OURSELVES FIRST before we start to be in harmony with others around us. I will show you the essential thing that you and I must do to accomplish this in a moment, but for now, I think you can see that this is an important factor for us to be happy in the world God has made for us.

Getting Along With Others

No one likes to be around someone just like ourselves in every detail all the time. That would be a boring existence. We all want and need variety. So does God. Variety is the spice of life if it is controlled in the proper way and in accordance with the principles and laws that govern good behavior among people.⁷ One of the greatest diversities that makes life wonderful and harmonious is the differences between a man and a woman (both physically and psychologically). If a husband and wife come from the same general background and have essentially the same value systems which dominate their lives (both culturally, politically and religiously), the differences between the two in a gender way can add to the enjoyment and harmony that they can have if they work at the differences in a proper way.

Even in the Family of God there are males and females. If you want a full explanation of the masculine and feminine aspects of the God Family, send for my book [*The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*](#) where I show this principle in detail.⁸ Below I will show the essential thing you and I must do to accomplish this harmony in marriage and in society. For now, I think you can see that this is an important factor in being happy in the world that God has made for us to be a part of.

Some Obvious Difficulties in Relationships

We are aware that in a single family here on earth (especially if there are many members in it), there are human beings who are of the same father and mother, with the exact racial characteristics as the others (though the genes may bring out traits in physical and psychological aspects in some that are different from others). We know what a struggle it often is for even members of the same family to get along with one another.

Pity the poor married couple who find themselves so different from one another that their dating period did not disclose before marriage. A husband may be very shy, and the wife an extrovert. Or, the man may be flippant in attitude, while the wife is very serious. Or, the man may have one religious belief, and his wife accepts another belief that is antagonistic to his. We are all aware that all these things are seeds for disharmony and hostility, and this is the fact even with people who are of the same race and cultural background.

Some Problems May Arise With Race Differences

As I have been showing in the first part of this article, there are troubles enough in trying to have harmony when humans are of the same race, religion, and culture. Imagine what happens when we introduce the normal and certain differences of race into the issue. What humans must accept is the fact that God made all races to be equally beautiful in form and in cultural mannerisms, but the beauty and the acceptability is usually appreciated by members of each racial group for one another, and this attitude does not extend to the different racial characteristics of other races. This is a simple fact of life no one can avoid; nor should anyone do so.

Indeed, every single factor that makes one race appear in a relationship of beauty and acceptability is a factor based upon relativity. In a Chinese culture, the most handsome and acceptable are those who appear to be more like the standard Chinese person. But what is a standard Chinese person? The phrase is one that is subjective to the core. There could never be a consensus of people who could unequivocally assert what represents the standard Chinese person. It is the same with any other race of people on earth.

⁷ According to Genesis 10:32 God divided the nations, then He further divided peoples by separating languages in Genesis 11:1–9. In my July 2015 Commentary, "[Thoughts About Babel](#)" I examine the problems and even the horrors of that event. DWS

⁸ See Chapter 30, "[Marriage and the Family in the Resurrection](#)" in *Essentials*.. DWS

Every one of us, in one way or another, is different (often very different among members of one's own race, culture, and religion). Is it not a fact that we have problems in getting along with ourselves because we are at times very critical of God for making us the way that we are? God certainly made us in a way that pleased Him to do so (Ephesians 1:11), but often His ways do not please us. Many of us could be constantly complaining to God for creating us the way He did, if we would let things get out of hand and begin to murmur against Him. God made us the way we are for a grand purpose, and we should learn to be content with His creation as it is. **“These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage”** (Jude 16).

The Main Problem in Racial Disharmony

The problems that afflict us in our own family relationships, in our own marriages between sons and daughters of God, are problems that seem to be universal in scope. If we humans (even of the same race, or even of the same family) have difficulties in getting along with one another, do we suppose that such things would be different between the divine members of the Godhead? Recall that Jesus Christ is still called an “*anthropos*,” which is the Greek root word for man or mankind:

“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; Who will have all **MEN [mankind, ἄνθρωπος] to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and **MEN** [mankind, ἄνθρώπων], the **MAN** [man, ἄνθρωπος] Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”**

• 1 Timothy 2:5

Both the Father and Christ are one and we humans are one with them.⁹ Christ said:

“Holy Father, keep through your own name those whom you have given me [all of us], that they may be ONE, as we are [ONE].”

• John 17:11

“That they all may be ONE; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be ONE in us: that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

• John 17:21

Our destiny as humans is, as His children, to be ONE with the Father and with Christ Jesus in the very Family of God that rules the universe. Examine what this means.

God the Father gave to Jesus Christ the authority and the ability to create the universe as we now see it (Colossians 1:15–16). In addition, what was the reason for the creation itself and for Jesus Christ to come to earth almost 2000 years ago to redeem humanity to the Father? The reason was stated very succinctly and poignantly by the apostle Paul in the Book of Hebrews. He said, **“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor”** (Hebrews 2:7, 9, quoting Psalm). This is true, but in spite of the divine honor and glory that Jesus Christ now has, he is still denominated an “*anthropos*,” a man (1 Timothy 2:4-6).

We humans have difficulty getting along with one another in complete harmony even when we are members of the same race or family with similar cultures, religions, and societies. But when people of different races are placed in the intimate associate of others of a different race, the natural differences among those in the same race and family can be multiplied many times. This is especially so if the differences are physically and psychologically great.

⁹ Chapter 13 of *Essentials* explains, **“Just What Are Human Beings?”** My January 2004 Commentary, **“Jesus Was Not An Angel,”** also explains clearly that Jesus was a human being when He was born of Mary, and is a human being, an *anthropos* even in His glorified state today. This was as God and Christ intended because all children of Adam will become fully mature glorified children of God as Christ is at this moment. In my June 2013 Commentary, **“Anakim Are from Adam”** demonstrates that the Anakim were classified as humans “of Adam” even though they had mixed parentage, human mothers but fathers who were Sons of God, at least in the first generation. God allowed it, and said the offspring were human, “of *adam*.” *DWS*

Even when people are of the same race, IF a man and woman's value systems are very diverse from one another, an intimate relationship with utter harmony is bound to fail from the start. Two people (a man and woman) must have a value and cultural system that are basically the same. If their value system is virtually identical in culture, politics, religion, and race, then their chance of having a harmonious relationship will be much surer.

The VALUE SYSTEM Is Most Important

We who are Christians and have the same basic understanding of the teachings of the Holy Scripture have the best value system that there is for any type of human relationships, and that includes having a harmony among the races. When all of us agree on the teachings of God's Holy Word AS THE STANDARD for all conduct and social and religious principles that govern our lives, then we have a STANDARD that can bring about all types of harmony in every situation of life. We must teach all races to accept this STANDARD for their lives (in all phases of life) as being the guiding force that gives each of us our value system.

Once we realize that each of us in the world is destined to be a very child of God and an intimate member of the Family of God that rules the universe, we will all be better off. God wants variety in His Family. All races (indeed, all individual human beings) must understand WHO THEY ARE. They are all the very Children of God (though different from one another). Once this is understood, there will be no room for feelings of inferiority or superiority. After all, we are all ONE in the Father and Christ Jesus.

Ernest L. Martin, 1997
David Sielaff, March 2019

Addendum by David Sielaff

First, any human being can marry any other human being of the opposite sex regardless of race, with no biblical prohibition of any Christian from marrying outside their race. Those of Israel were restricted under YHWH's covenant with the people of Israel from marrying certain non-Israelite peoples, but it apparently occurred. Moses was married to Zipporah (Exodus 2:21, 18:2) and he later married a Cushite woman (Numbers 12:1), only those two so far as we know from Scripture. Dr. Martin discusses this briefly in his article "[The Ten Commandments](#)" which is about the limitations of the Mosaic Laws. Samson sought to marry a Philistine woman. David and Solomon both had several foreign wives who were not Israelites and there is no criticism of either of these "good" kings of Israel.

Second, Israelites were prohibited from marrying with neighboring peoples such as the Moabites or Philistines because of their religious practices that would infect the Covenant regulations with idolatry. The prohibition was not based on race. Ruth, a Moabitess, married Boaz, an Israelite from the tribe of Judah and Ruth was King David's grandmother. She denied her Moabite religion to only worship YHWH.

Third, interracial marriage and other interactions usually have cultural problems apart from issues of race, which Dr. Martin discusses above in this article. Marriage between races may impose additional burdens and problems on relationships, but again, God does not prohibit such unions.

In my May 2004 Commentary, "[The Times of This Ignorance](#)," I analyze Paul's statement to the Greeks on Mars Hill in Athens in Acts 17:15–34 about how God determines boundaries of peoples as He pleases.

The teaching that we all will become as Christ is now, is clearly taught in 1 John 3:2. Read Dr. Martin's lecture and article, "[Salvation and the Biblical Doctrine of Deification](#)." Additional information is in two chapters of *Essentials*: Chapter 30, "[Just What Is God?](#)" and Chapter 33, "[Just Who Are You?](#)"

For the movements of peoples and the various races in history, see Dr. Martin's article, "[Prophetic Geography and the Time of the End](#)" which gives the biblical information from after the flood to the end of this age. See also, "[Geography, A Prime Prophetic Truth](#)." For present-day population trends (and they are significant), begin with my April 2004 Commentary, "[Economic and Population Trends](#)," then go on to read my full August 2015 article, "[God and Demographics](#)."

DWS