

Message Notes

“Red and Yellow, Black and White . . .”

Acts 17:26 (ESV)

January 22, 2017

An Uplifting Vision: Racial Harmony

◆ Declared By a Converge President

◆ A Movement’s Call

“We acknowledge our world, country and communities are changing, and our organization needs to make adjustments to more effectively bridge spiritual, social, ethnic and cultural divides so prevalent in our society. . . . The opportunity for the church to shine as a beacon of hope has never been greater in our country, nor has the opportunity to impact people from every tongue, tribe, people and nation.”

(Scott Ridout)

◆ A Movement’s Character

“Spiritually dynamic . . . missionally driven . . . relationally devoted . . . ethnically diverse.”

(Scott Ridout)

◆ Defended By an American President

“. . . this black man owed a debt to those who came before him;” “our awesome God;” “black parents and black culture need to change the way black children are raised;” “there is one America.”

(Former President Barack Obama, 2004)

“Race relations have gotten better, no matter what some folks say; have sympathy for the middle-aged white guy who . . .; may seem like he’s got advantages, but has seen his world upended . . .”

(Former President Barack Obama, 2017)

An Underlying Truth: Racial Accuracy

◆ Unity Assured in Scripture

“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place.”

(Acts 17:26)

◆ Unity Affirmed By Science

◆ Our Design Examined

“If you ask what percentage of your genes is reflected in your external appearance, the basis by which we talk about race, the answer seems to be in the range of 0.01 percent.”

(Harold Page Freeman)

◆ Our Design Explained (Skin Pigment: Melanin)

◆ The Plan for Humankind

“Melanin produced by melanocytes, which insert it into melanosomes, which transfer pigment to other skin cells.”

(AIG website)

- ◆ **The Path of Humankind**
 - ◆ **Heredity – The Process God Adopted**
 - ◆ **Parents Contribute (DNA)**
 - ◆ **Progeny Crafted**
 - ◆ **History – The Path God Allowed**
 - ◆ **Creation – Adam and Eve**
 - ◆ **Catastrophe – Noah and the Flood**
 - ◆ **Confusion – Babel and Dispersion**
 - ◆ **Distinctions Appeared**
 - ◆ **Defenses Apparent**

“Real science in the present fits with the biblical view that all people are rather closely related – there is only one race biologically.” (Ken Ham)
- ◆ **The Prescription for Humankind**

“The church could greatly relieve the tensions over racism (particularly in countries like America), if only the leaders would teach biblical truths about our shared ancestry: all people are descended from one man and woman; all people are equal before God; all are sinners in need of salvation; all need to build their thinking on God’s Word and judge all their cultural aspects accordingly; all need to be one in Christ and put an end to their rebellion against their Creator.” (Ken Ham)

An Unending Practice: Racial Balance

- ◆ **A Wise Exhortation – “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”**

“His message wasn’t ‘my people’ versus ‘your people’ but instead right versus wrong – justice versus injustice. He makes arguments. He expects action. He longs ultimately not for tribalism, but for brotherhood.” (David French)
- ◆ **A Working Example**

“The only thing worth living for is the lifting up of our fellow men. We should not let our grievances overshadow our opportunities. . . . In the sight of God, there is no color line, and we want to cultivate a spirit that will make us forget that there is such a line anyway.” (Booker T. Washington)