

Oneness in Diversity

Let's begin with Ephesians 4:16 (NLT)

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As **each part does its own special work**, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.”

Consider this:

God is the one that chose the colour of our skin and there are 18 decillion colours (that's 33 zeros), there are 2 sexes, 12 tribes, 12 apostles, 120 in the upper room, 5 ministry gifts, 9 spiritual gifts, 9 spiritual fruits, 8.7 million animal species, 391K plant species, 1.6 million marine species, 2 trillion galaxies, 10 to the 24 power planets in our observable Universe, and that's only counting planets that are orbiting stars; there are then completely individual stars that God has given unique names to that number about 10 raised to the 21 power, which is the amount equal to the number of grains of sand on ALL of the beaches on planet earth and not 1 single grain of sand is the same; there are about 1 followed by 24 zeros, snowflakes that fall in a single year and not 1 is ever the same, there are about 107 billion sons and daughters of Adam that have ever lived and 7.8 billion different sets of finger prints currently alive on planet earth.

To say that God likes diversity is an understatement. He created it. I think it's safe to say that He didn't want to get bored.

- Genesis 1:31 And God saw **everything that he had made (including man)**, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

So, what is diversity?

Webster 1828 dictionary defines diversity as: difference; dis-similitude; unlikeness.

God created diversity and yet He commands oneness...

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but **that ye be perfectly joined together** in the same mind (nous) and in the same judgment (gnōmē-cognition/opinion).

katartizō (kat-ar-tid'-zo)

1. to render, i.e. to fit, sound, complete
 - a. to mend (what has been broken or torn), to repair
 1. to complete
 - b. to fit out, equip, put in order, arrange, adjust
 1. to fit or frame for one's self, prepare
 - c. ethically: to strengthen, perfect, complete, make one what he ought to be

1 Corinthians 1:10 (TPT) 10 I urge you, my brothers and sisters, for the sake of the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree to live in unity with one another and put to rest any division that attempts to tear you apart. Be restored as one united body living in perfect harmony. Form a consistent choreography among yourselves, having a common perspective with shared values.

What is Oneness?

Webster 1828 defines oneness as: singleness in number; individuality; unity; and the quality of being one.

Let's go to the book of Beginnings:

Genesis 1:26-27 (ESV)

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; **male and female** he created them.

Notice that God didn't even want man to just be male, He made man diverse, yet one; He made them so different as one, that every married couple are still scratching their heads because we are so different.

(Perhaps, some husbands have scratched more than others...PTL ☺)

Man has a body:

Genesis 2:7

And the Lord God formed man of **the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The dust of the ground, or in other words, **dirt**:

So, our bodies are essentially a bag of dirt.

So, if someone calls you a "dirt-bag", don't get offended, because that's what God made for you to live in.

Wikipedia explains the color of dirt:

Soil colour does not affect the behavior and use of the soil; soil can exhibit a wide range of colour: grey, black, white, reds, browns, yellows and greens (and of course, a diversity/variety of these)

In other words, the colour of someone's skin doesn't define them, it only describes their paint colour.

It simply has to do with their God-given DNA and amount of melanin that was passed on from their biological ancestry.

Now, we have to remember that God is one; yet God is 3.

The divine mystery of the Trinity:

Here's the definition:

There are 3 equal, separate, divine persons in absolute oneness in the Godhead. As individuals, each person of the Godhead may be called God or They may be called God collectively because of Their absolute oneness.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations (ministries), but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

Now, if God is One and He made us to be One and He made us all different, why do we have *racism*?

Let's find out?

What is racism?

First, we have to define race:

Webster 1828 defines race as - The lineage of a family, or continued series of descendants from a parent who is called the stock. A *race* is the series of descendants indefinitely. Thus, all mankind is called the *race* of Adam; the Israelites are of the *race* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

When Adam sinned, he changed races to belong to the rebellious one, Satan.

Racism is not found in Webster 1828.

Webster Collegiate Dictionary defines racism as - *a belief* that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race.

There are 2 races and 3 groups described in the Bible and they have NOTHING TO DO WITH SKIN COLOUR:

2 Races:

1st of all...

Genesis 12:2-3

And I will make of thee a great **nation**, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Nation Heb. gôy (Go-ee) translated 558 X's as - nations, heathen, gentiles, peoples

It describes Abraham and his seed and then, every other nation described as 'nations', 'heathens', or 'gentiles'..

Then we need to understand that there are 3 Groups:

1 Corinthians 10:32

Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the **Gentiles**, nor to the **church of God**.

Gentiles, Gr. Hellēn (hel-lane) - in a wider sense, the name embraces all nations that are not Jews that made the language, customs, and learning of the Greeks their own; the primary reference is to a difference of religion and worship

Then you have The Church of God...

Galatians 3:27-29

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one in Christ Jesus**. 29 And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 8:17 says each of us in Christ are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. **Glory to God!**

What does the New Testament command us regarding oneness:

1 Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:3-6 (ESV)

Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

So, where does racism come from in this world?

First of all, you have to ask the question, is God in control and the Sovereign of this world?

Emphatically, "NO!!"

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them **which believe not**, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Notice that all Satan has to do is tempt a believer to believe a lie, just like he did with Eve in the garden of Eden, and the believer then becomes an un-believing believer or as Romans 8:6 describes, carnally minded, which is death, or separation from God.

Racism is the business of un-believers.

Satan is the great deceiver. His goal is to lie and deceive so that we go back to a life of sin:

John 8:44 (ESV)

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth (God's Word), because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Satan's goal is for believers to become like him – liars and murderers.

1 John 2:9-11

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, **because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.**

1 John 3:15

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

Racism is the result of hate. Grief which is rooted in fear can often lead to hate because the root of racism is birthed in one blaming the person or the group that is considered to be the one that made you feel that way.

E.g. racism towards police, towards a certain colour, etc....

1 John 4:20-21

If a man say, I love God (or in other words is a Christian), and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 21 And **this commandment** (not suggestion) have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

As I close:

As believers and God's own creation, we should celebrate and embrace our individuality that God has made each of us unique. The reality is that we need each other.

Psalms 139:14

I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

Finally,

Psalms 133

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments; 3 As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore.

No wonder that Satan fights unity so hard.

God bless you and thank you again for this opportunity.