

## **DO CHRISTIANS COMPRISE A THIRD RACIAL GROUP?**

It has recently come to my attention that some sincere and well-meaning Christians are promoting a falsehood that is not only erroneous but dangerous. That foolish and unbiblical notion is this: in addition to the two racial groups mentioned in Scripture (Jews and Gentiles), followers of Christ are now a “third race” which has come into existence under the New Covenant. Is this true? Absolutely not! The Scriptures quoted to support this nonsensical theory are found in Ephesians 2:11-22 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. In the latter, Paul describes the Christian as a “new creation.” In the former and more lengthy passage, Paul affirms the new reality of the New Covenant, accomplished by the redemptive work of our Savior. In Christ, Jews and Gentiles which were formerly separate racial groups, have been formed “into one new man” (Ephesians 2:15); creating what the New Testament refers to as the body of Christ. But is this new reality, this wonderful unity, racial in nature? Of course not. The distinguishing feature of the Christian is not racial but SPIRITUAL. Paul establishes this distinction in 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, where we read this:

**“But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one.”**

In other words, what makes the Christian different from all other people is that he or she is spiritually alive, while everyone else is spiritually “dead in trespasses and sins” (Ephesians 2:1-7). The Christian is a new creation on a spiritual, and NOT on a racial level. Paul elaborates upon the spiritual unity that exists among Christians within the body of Christ in Galatians 3:26-29 –

**“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise.”**

Is Paul telling us here that “in Christ,” Jewish people lose their unique ethnicity? Have men and women ceased being male and female and become gender neutral? Is Paul in denial about the obvious socio-economic differences that existed among Christians in the first century? Then what is Paul saying here? Simply this. In Christ, on a SPIRITUAL level, every Christian has an EQUAL standing before God. No one can or should regard himself/herself, as “better” than anyone else.

As previously mentioned, the unbiblical notion that Christians are a third race of people, is not only erroneous, but dangerous. Anyone who advocates for such a perspective, is unwittingly cozying up to radicalized Neo-Nazi White Supremacists, who also claim to be Christians, while affirming the superiority of the white race and the need for separating itself from all other inferior racial groups. This is in direct contradiction to the furtherance of the cause of Christ in our lost and fallen world, which mandates that we go into all the world and preach the gospel to all nations, with the end result described for us in Revelation 5:9-10 –

**“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.’”**