

OF ONE BLOOD

Acts 17:26 ... “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwelling ‘so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.’”

Racial disharmony is at the core of many wars. When one people-group adopts the idea that they are superior to another people-group, persecution and violence follows. Vikings felt they were superior to other peoples which justified them conquering their neighbors. The Japanese consider themselves to be a superior race. The Chinese feel they are the one, true race and have a term for non-Chinese people that labels them (us) as ghosts; not real people. African tribes have been exterminating one another for thousands of years to keep themselves pure. Superiority is behind slavery, wherein one group of people considers another group of people, only useful as laborers. The treatment of Filipino OFWs in some parts of the world, is modern day proof of this. Even within our country, some Filipinos who are descended from Spanish overlords, consider themselves superior to Filipinos with Malay bloodlines and they, in turn, often consider themselves to be superior to indigenous peoples.

When the church first began sending out missionaries (around 300ad), it was common for them to look down at the people they were sent to minister to due to racial differences. Around the world, early missionaries and priests often became slave owners and cruel masters. This was common wherever missionaries accompanied European explorers, such as South and Central America, the Caribbean and Philippines.

Today's verses are from the Apostle Paul's speech to Greek philosophers, who considered themselves superior to others. He tells them that despite their belief in many gods and their perceived superiority over other men, the one true God made all men from one man; all men share the same bloodline and DNA. He also tells them that God appointed peoples to dwell in certain parts of the world so they would each find God in their own time.

Scientists tell us that people of different colors, size, body shape, and hair color came to have those features, not because they were created separately in a different manner, but because of the environment in which they live. Asians are generally smaller than other peoples, due to their diet. If you give a Filipino baby a healthy, robust diet, it will often grow to be larger than his or her parents. Dark hair and skin is due to thousands of years of severe sun exposure, which is why people in the north often have light skin.

Does race play a part in your life? Do you consider some peoples to be of less value than you, simply because of where they live or what they look like? Do you consider people from some groups to be less smart than you? Knowledge, which defines how smart you are, is acquired and learned, you are not born with it. So, people you consider less smart, are the victims of poorer education opportunities than you have. I urge you to look at others in the way that God does: One people, one race, all equally created as the children of God.

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