

Christian Ethics

A Biblical View of Races and Cultures

The basic equality of humanity is anchored in Creation

- We are of “one blood:” Acts 17.26
- We are all are equally sinful before God. Romans 2.6-13
- We are all equally savable. Romans 10.12; Revelation 5.9 kindred (tribe), tongue (language), people (“people group”), and nation (ethnicity)

The Cultural and racial differences between us are also the work of God

- Acts 17.26 from “one blood,” He has made “all nations.” This is the word “ethnicities”
- There are tribes, which are extended family groups
- Ethnicity describes a larger group of people with shared language, etc.

Salvation affirms the equality of essence of all humanity

- Galatians 3.25-29
- Ephesians 2.11-22
- This does not mean equality of function.
Just as the Trinity is equal in essence, but
different in function, so people are equal in
essence before God, but not equal in
function

The Church must affirm the equality of essence of all human beings

- James 2.1-26. “No partiality”
- James 2.1-7; Not for the rich over the poor
- James 2.8-26; Partiality subverts the fundamental doctrine of faith (not merit) as our standing before God
- People’s “standing” and responsibilities within a local Church must be based on spiritual criteria, not financial or genealogical