



Position Paper on Race & Human Relations

Recent events have surfaced “racism” as a major subject for discussion across the globe. It is important for followers of Jesus Christ to seek God’s mind and position on such an important and sensitive subject. Many questions come to mind:

- Are there really different races within the human race?
- Are there superior or inferior races?
- Is there justification for advantaging some races in relation to others?
- Is there any justification for racial hatred?
- Is there any validity to the claim that there is institutionalized racism, making it a rather systemic problem?
- What should the people of God be saying and doing in a time like this?

The African Forum on Religion and Government (AFReG) seeks to promote Church and Government collaboration in transforming Africa into a premier continent based on God-centered values. The concept of Africa is consistent with the African Union’s position, and therefore includes Africans in the Diaspora. It is therefore imperative that AFReG clarifies its position first for its members, secondly for all people of African descent, and thirdly for all humanity.

The following statement is AFReG’s position on the subject of human race and relations.

Recognizing that

God created all humans in His image,

There is only one human race,

Diversity in the human race is to be celebrated,

Humans need one another for peace, development and prosperity,

The Fall of Adam and Eve has resulted in the distortion of how human beings perceive and live out God's image in them,

God's purpose is to transform and restore humans into His image,

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Perfect Human sent into the world as a testimony and representation of God's desired future for humanity, and the means to a new creation in Him,

Dehumanization of any people further destroys the honoring of God's image in them and is as such against God's purpose for humanity,

Racial injustice is dehumanizing and ungodly,

Injustice among any people is injustice everywhere,

Passiveness and silence in times of injustice constitute loud indirect support for its continuation,

The best response to evil is to take a higher moral ground rather than fueling an unending cycle of revenge and violence,

Peace among humanity is only possible when all parties are committed to repentance, confession, forgiveness, reconciliation, justice, and interdependence.

AReG commits to promote

The truth that all humans are created equal and in God's image,

The truth that there is only one human race enriched by the gift of our diversity,

The equality of all humans irrespective of background or color,

The truth that any form of discrimination on the basis of race is not only unjust, but also sinful in the sight of God,

Positive identity among people of African descent,

Transformation of all peoples into the image of God through personal relationships with Jesus Christ; who is at one and the same time, The Son of God (exact image of the invisible Almighty God, representing God to humanity), and the Son of Man (the perfect human, representing the rest of humanity before God),

Reconciliation, justice and peace of all peoples,

Repentance, confession, forgiveness in areas where people have fallen short of God's purpose and standards for human dignity and equality,

Transformation of all human societies based on the vision, values and principles of the Kingdom of God,

Development of societies based on the primary values of God-centeredness and sacredness of human life; in addition to other values like positive identity, integrity, sense of community, freedom and justice, empowering leadership, maximization, and excellence,

Reconciliation and oneness of all people of African descent and the rest of humanity,

The building of "common-wealth" among all people of African descent in particular, and the rest of humanity in general,

Scientific and technological advancement for maximization of God-given resources among people of African descent,

Encourage unity of all people with the understanding that "united we all stand and divided we all fall,"

Reconciliation, oneness and transformation in the Church as a model for society,

The leadership role of the Church as salt and light of all human societies.