

Ethnicity and Racism: In Our Time and In All Times

In light of the current climate in the United States and in the church over race, racism, and racial tensions, we, the Elders of Grace and Peace Community Church, would like to refer you to documents produced by our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA): a [2004 Pastoral Letter on Racism](#) and a [2018 Report on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation](#). The Philadelphia Presbytery, to which we belong, has also produced the following statements in response to racial violence: [here](#) and [here](#). We the Elders of Grace and Peace Community Church align ourselves with the views contained in these documents and statements, and we also refer you to the following statement we adopted on 4/11/2021:

*We believe every human being is created in the image of God regardless of gender, socio-economic status, class, language, ethnicity, or nationality (**Genesis 1:26–27**). Therefore, every human being is created with equal dignity and value and deserves equal honor and respect. Although there are different ethnicities, there is only one race: the human race (**Acts 17:26**). Therefore, we reject and condemn any form of ethnically-based discrimination, partiality, superiority, and hatred. These are sins against both God and His image-bearers, whether it is expressed by individuals, groups, or systems. Conversely, God commands us to treat all people without partiality or favoritism, as His image-bearers (**James 2:1; 8-9, Matthew 22:35-40**).*

*We believe every human being, except for Jesus Christ who is both God and man, has inherited from Adam both his sinful nature and his guilt, and therefore every human being, except for Jesus Christ, stands condemned before the Only True Living God. Sin is humanity's fundamental problem (**Romans 5:12**). Ethnically-based discrimination, partiality, superiority, and hatred are expressions of sin and are the result of living in a fallen and cursed world. This has sadly been committed in countless times and places in human history. Like all sin, it must be acknowledged, confessed, and repented of.*

*We believe every human being from every tribe, tongue, and nation can be reconciled to God through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17-22**). Having been reconciled to God through the same Lord and Savior, all believers of every time, place, language, and ethnicity are reconciled to one another in Jesus. Having been reconciled to one another, believers are now one new humanity united across all worldly divisions for all eternity (**Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:28**). Ethnically-based discrimination, partiality, superiority, and hatred in the church are therefore a denial and contradiction of the Gospel of Jesus (**Galatians 2:11-21**). The redeemed and reconciled church is called to live out what we already are: a unified people made up of every tribe, tongue, and nation that will eternally live together in heaven, who are now to witness to God's power, grace, peace, love, and glory here on earth (**Romans 12:1-18; Revelation 5:9–10; John 17:20-23**).*

Therefore, (1) To those guilty of ethnically-based discrimination, partiality, superiority, and hatred in either thought, word, or action, we implore you to acknowledge, confess, and repent of these sins. The only way you can be forgiven by God, cleansed of your sin, and renewed to a life of love here on earth, is through faith in Jesus Christ; (2) To those who have suffered from ethnically-based discrimination, partiality, superiority, and hatred, we grieve with you, and we stand with you. Jesus sees and understands your struggle and your tears, and He protects, comforts, and strengthens all of the brokenhearted who trust in Him.