



# CAYMAN ISLANDS REGIONAL MISSION COUNCIL

## WEEKLY UPDATE

June 24, 2020

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 25

### Billy Graham On Race

*(Source: BGEA website May 8, 2020)*

*“For God shows no partiality.” (Romans 2:11)*

*“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him...” (Genesis 1:27)*

The Bible is clear that there is no room for racism in God’s plan for His people. Each person you interact with today, each one you pass on the road or in the store, every single man, woman and child is a unique creation of God Almighty. He loves them—and you—with a divine love so strong we can’t possibly comprehend it.

While our imperfection, our rebellion and our sin creates a divide between us and the One who created us—and therefore a division between us and others—God formed a plan to close that gap and draw us back to Him. That plan was Jesus Christ, who heals and changes our hearts and gives us the ability to love others and God as we should.

Billy Graham once wrote in his book, *World Aflame*: “In Christ the middle wall of partition has been broken down. There is no Jew, no Gentile—no black, white, yellow, or red. We could be one great brotherhood in Jesus Christ. However, until we come to recognize Him as the Prince of Peace and receive His love in our hearts, the racial tensions will increase, racial demands will become more militant, and a great deal of blood will be shed. The race problem could become another flame out of control!”

Over several decades of ministry, including the Civil Rights Movement, Billy Graham answered many questions on race and prejudice. Here are some that still apply today:

**Q: An acquaintance of mine at work claims to be a Christian, but he's very prejudiced against people of other ethnic groups. How can he feel this way and still be a Christian? I thought Christians were supposed to love others, even if they didn't agree with them.**

A: Racial or ethnic prejudice is a sin in the eyes of God, and no Christian should allow his or her heart to be filled with prejudice. Prejudice and hate go hand-in-hand, and hate is the opposite of Christ’s love.

Why is prejudice wrong? One reason is because God created the whole human race, and every human being bears something of His image. The Bible says, “From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth” (Acts 17:26). When we hate someone or dismiss them as unworthy of our concern, we are refusing to see them the way God sees them.

But prejudice is also wrong because Christ died for people from all races and all backgrounds—and He did so because He loves them all. How can we do any less? The Bible tells us that Christ will be praised in heaven, “because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

Only God knows your acquaintance’s heart, and whether or not he has truly given his life to Christ. But don’t let his inconsistency keep you from giving your own life to Jesus. God loves you; He loves you so much that Christ was willing to die for you. Don’t turn your back on His love, but by faith open your heart to Christ and yield your life to Him today.

**Q: My aunt is a very fine person in many ways and active in her church but she's also one of the most prejudiced persons I've ever met toward people of other races. I know she grew up this way, but is it too late for her to change? I'd be interested in your answer.**

A: No, it’s never too late for someone to change—although the older we get the harder it becomes. But God still can change someone’s attitude if the person is willing, regardless of their age. Jesus said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27).

I have often pointed (...) that racism is a sin—and the first step your aunt needs to take is to face this truth. God made us all, regardless of our ethnic background or race, and He loves us all equally. Should those of us who claim to follow Christ love others any less than He does? Remember, by His death on the cross Jesus “purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

But racism is also wrong because it has its roots in pride—believing we are better than other people are. But pride is a very serious and dangerous sin in the eyes of God. The Bible warns, “The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished” (Proverbs 16:5).

Pray for your aunt, and ask God also to give you an opportunity to confront her with your concerns. She may not even be aware

how deep her prejudice is; if she grew up this way, she may never have examined it. Above all, encourage her to open her heart afresh to Christ and His transforming love.

**Q: What do you think is the greatest social problem in the world today? Some friends and I were talking about this recently, but we didn't come to any agreement. Whatever it is, do you think churches should be doing anything about it, or is it best left to governments?**

A: I've often said that in my view racism is the biggest social problem we face in the world today, and I believe it still is. Not only do we have continuing problems with racism in our own country, but racism is a worldwide problem that leads to countless wars and conflicts. It also is at the root of much of the world's injustice and poverty.

Governments have their part to play in solving society's ills, of course—not just racism, but other social problems as well. We need fair laws that will fight corruption and injustice, and we need wise policies that will encourage a better world.

But we also have a responsibility as believers to work for a better world. The Bible tells us to pray for our leaders, so that “we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:2). God told Jeremiah to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you. ... Pray to the Lord for it” (Jeremiah 29:7). Are you doing this?

The problem, however, is that even the wisest leaders and the finest laws can't deal with the most basic problem our world faces—and that is the problem of the human heart. Society is evil because our hearts are evil—and only God can change our hearts. And He will, as we turn in faith to Christ and ask Him to change us from within. Is this happening in your life?

**Q: Does the Bible teach that one race is superior to another?**

A: No, this is not what the Bible teaches. In fact, the Bible teaches exactly the opposite, because it tells us that God created every race equally in His image, and He loves every race equally. The Bible says, “From one man he made all the nations. ... We are God's offspring” (Acts 17:26, 29).

It's true that some have tried to use the Bible to justify racism. You may have heard, for example, that God supposedly put a curse on Ham (one of Noah's three sons), some of whose descendants eventually migrated to Africa. But nothing could be farther from the truth. God actually was warning about the future of one of Ham's sons, Canaan, who became the founder of some of the peoples in the ancient Middle East (See Genesis 9:24-27; 10:15.)

Racism of any type is wrong in God's eyes, and it should be wrong in our hearts and minds as well. God's love is not restricted to one group or one race—and neither should ours. When Jesus went to the cross, He gave His life for people from all races and all backgrounds. And some day in Heaven we'll join with all those for whom Christ died, “from every tribe and language and people and nation” (Revelation 5:9).

Don't let the errors of a few keep you from Christ. God loves you—and the most important step you can ever take is to respond to His love by committing your life to Jesus Christ. Open your heart and life to His love today.

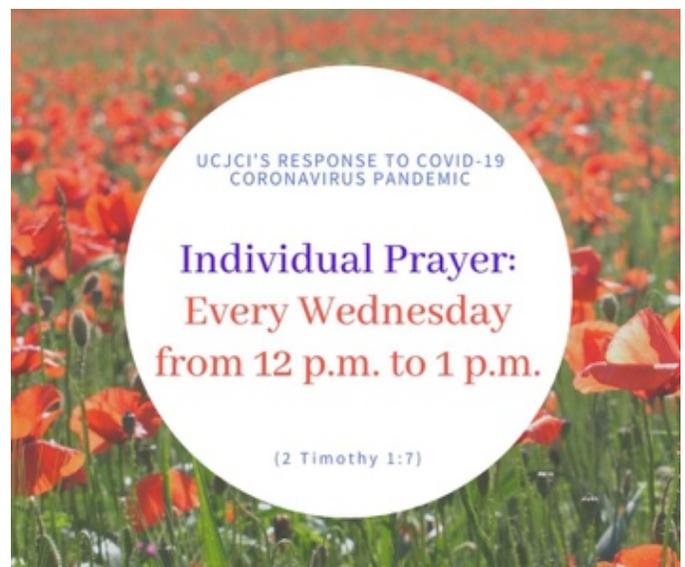
**JESUS WAS NOT A WHITE MAN;  
HE WAS NOT A BLACK MAN.**

**CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A WHITE MAN'S RELIGION  
AND DON'T LET ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU  
THAT IT'S WHITE OR BLACK.**

**CHRIST BELONGS TO ALL PEOPLE;  
HE BELONGS TO THE WHOLE WORLD.**

*Billy Graham*

**The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association** is a non-profit Christian outreach organization that promotes multimedia evangelism, conducts evangelistic crusades, and engages in disaster response.



### **Worship the Lord**

-on Radio Cayman 89.9 every Sunday at 7:45 am-  
**June 28.** Rev. Dr. Yvette Noble-Bloomfield and  
Rev. Rohan Forrester

**June 28. (Sunday) 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**All local United Church congregations are open except John Gray Memorial** (will reopen on July 5) Please contact the offices for details.

**Worship Services** will still be available via video links.

Published by the Cayman Islands Regional Mission Council of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands  
292 Prospect Point Road  
P.O. Box 1700 Grand Cayman KY1-1109 CAYMAN ISLANDS  
Tel: 1 345 947 1963 Email: [rdgs@cicucjci.com](mailto:rdgs@cicucjci.com) or [cirmcinfo@gmail.com](mailto:cirmcinfo@gmail.com)  
Website: [unitedchurch.org.ky](http://unitedchurch.org.ky)