

**General Topics :: Is it wrong not to care about race issues?****Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by Santana (), on: 2010/2/17 12:51**

I don't know where to begin...so I'll just go ahead and say it. After getting saved and reading the bible for the first time, I realized there are only 2 races: Jew & Gentile.

But I live in America in 2010 and there's always talk about racism. (Especially being Black History Month.) Is it wrong not to be interested in your race and being a Christian? I don't participate in these issues because I know the real issue is not skin color, nationality or sex. It's sin!!!

I don't know a lot about Martin Luther King but I respect what he did. I just don't hear him speaking about salvation issues. Is there a time and place for that? Am I wrong to even think that?

1 John 2:9

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by sojourner7 (), on: 2010/2/17 13:09

You are right about the real issue: it is sin!!
GOD is not concerned about color, creed, or race; HE cares about character. Our character should be conformed to Christ. Christ prayed that we all be made one in heart, mind, purpose in the Spirit of the LORD !!

Re: - posted by Santana (), on: 2010/2/17 13:15

I guess I'm getting a little frustrated because I know a church who's really hitting this issue hard...trying to end racism: showing videos, etc.

America loves to give ideas about how to end racism but to me that's like trying to end sin...without the cross.

Re: - posted by shy1 (), on: 2010/2/17 13:54

I'm personally not sure if racism is ever going to end because there's still people who hold on to the past and don't want to make the future better ending racism.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2010/2/17 13:56

I do find it interesting that in the many times I've listened to Ravenhill, Tozer, etc., I never really heard them speak up on race issues... and they lived in a time where race issues were very big things.

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by harris, on: 2010/2/17 14:47

What is earthly is earthly and what is spiritual meditate on the things that are Godly. And they that worship God must worship him in spirit and truth. So, is spirit and truth a color or a race? So if you can answer that question then you will have your answer about race issues.

Satan still trying to keep the world in bonds and race issues are chains to keep one bounded. Silly, silly humans we can be-until- the spirit of Christ comes into our life.

As a soldier on the battle field fighting under fire from the enemy if race matter when Black man and a White man and a Mexican man are huddle together in a fox hole fighting the enemy.

So, in the spiritual battle field Saints are huddle together fighting the good fight of faith. We know God has created everything -and Christ our saviour has died on the tree for good--- so don't be fool any more by Satan with this foolish deceptive issues-- go out and serve Christ and tear down the walls of any in your life or society---because it is a stone thrown at the throne of God. And like Michael the Archangel--we can not stand for that--so onward Christians soldier.

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in Christ's service,

Gerald Harris

Re: - posted by Giggles (), on: 2010/2/17 15:12

I think God likes ethnic diversity (race is such an ugly word, there's only one race after all...human ;)

Rev. 7:9-10 "After these things I saw, and lo, a great multitude, which to number no one was able, out of all nations, and tribes, and peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne, and before the Lamb, arrayed in white robes, and palms in their hands, and crying with a great voice, saying, `The salvation is to Him who is sitting upon the throne--to our God, and to the Lamb!'" "

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by hoohouu (), on: 2010/2/17 15:42

I have found since my conversion that I don't really care either. Of course I don't want anyone mistreated, but I'm far more concerned with spiritual matters. Like someone else just posted, I think race, and I also think politics, are tools of the enemy to keep us earthly minded.

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues?, on: 2010/2/17 15:51

Santana,
brother, if a burden is not placed in your heart, its not in your heart.

but something, a burden, has been growing in my heart a long while, and instead of speaking only my words, I'll speak His Words, and see if anyone can discern what Isaiah means in this bit of Scripture: Its Isaiah 30:8 thru 14, and i'm going to quote in pieces

8And now, go, write it before them on a tablet
and inscribe it in a book,
that it may be for the time to come
as a witness forever.

9 For they are a rebellious people,
lying children,
children unwilling to hear
the instruction of the LORD;

who would this be? at the time, Isaiah wrote it about the kingdom of Judah....is this US?

10 who say to the seers, "Do not see,"
and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,

11leave the way, turn aside from the path,
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."

"smooth things" "prophesy illusions".

you can listen to sermon upon sermon in this land preaching against homosexual marriage, abortion on demand....yes?. ..or as you said," i just dont hear him (Dr. King) speaking about salvation issues"....well my brother, have you EVER listened to a collection of his GOSPEL sermons, not his civil rights speeches? I heard one where he detailed very very clearly how he was at end of himself, death threats, white folks down south threatening to kill him, his wife AND his CHILDREN. (dont know about you, but anybody threaten my boy, they best be wearing kevlar, and they better be hid up good) and he was at an end, and it was at this moment that Jesus spoke to him, become real, and Jesus promised never to leave him, and he concluded this sermon with a thunderous "Dont be a fool! Recognize your dependence on God!"

Now Doctor King wasnt murdered because of his civil rights work, Dr. King had begun very stridently to speak out again

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st the war in Vietnam, and dark forces silenced him, same thing with Bobby Kennedy not two months later...dark forces, oppressors. One can always believe the "lone gunman" thing.....thats fine, "speak to us smooth things".

12Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel,"Because you despise this word
and trust in oppression and perverseness
and rely on them,

As the Lord leads me, sexual immorality and murdering babies is FOUL WICKED SIN, are we agreed on that? that's the "perverseness", and i could reel out a whole host of other perversions in this land.....next time your at the check out counter in the supermarket, look at the perverse idol worshiping gossip magazines that line the shelves....BUT

what about the "oppression"? Anytime, anybody calls us on our OPPRESSION, watch out! They're "anti-American", "liberal" or EVEN "anti-god".....and then they'll unveil this concept called "American Exceptionalism"....hey brother, dont get me wrong, i think America's pretty special myself, BUT WE ARE STACKING ALL SORTS OF SINS TO THE HEAVENS! !!!...and ONE of them is the sin of slavery, which this nation is still accursed by, the dysfunctions of the inner city are the bitter fruit of that terrible sin, and nobody has the Grace or Truth or Honesty to come clean about it! Especially elements of the North American evangelical church, they just kiss the ring of the power brokers and the monied interests and the weapons manufacturer's, and someday we will ALL pay the price when the LORD GOD stretches out His Hand against us.

13therefore this iniquity shall be to you
like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse,
whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant;
14and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel
that is smashed so ruthlessly
that among its fragments not a shard is found
with which to take fire from the hearth,
or to dip up water out of the cistern."

terrible stuff's a coming, someday,soon we're going to get our own 'hitler' here in America, you watch. the time is late at hand, it is almost night in America.

there is NO "salvation" gospel, there is no "social" gospel, there is only the Gospel of Jesus Messiah, and He is a Jealous God.

Re: - posted by wind_blows, on: 2010/2/17 16:08

Hey Nathan

Quote:
-----and ONE of them is the sin of slavery, which this nation is still accursed by, the dysfunctions of the inner city are the bitter fruit of that terrible sin, and nobody has the Grace or Truth or Honesty to come clean about it!

What do you mean by this? How or what would one have to do to come clean about this sin? Not sure I am understanding what you mean.

Quote:
-----BUT WE ARE STACKING ALL SORTS OF SINS TO THE HEAVENS!!!!

I agree with you on this.

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much love in Him
ebeth

dear ebeth, on: 2010/2/17 16:32

slavery, the institution of slavery, ripping whole families OUT of Africa, which is the theft of people, and bringing them here, selling and tearing families apart, is the equivalent of a Holocaust visited upon Africans. Its just that while the nazis documented their hell unleashed upon the Jewish people with thoroughness, there was no such documentation of the rape and murder of African slaves in the Americas. It grieves me no end, that while the founding fathers of this great nation were writing the high and mighty words, "All men are created equal", we did not ABOLISH the fell institution of slavery, think about it?

Thats a NATIONAL sin, and it took the hell of a civil war to end this institution, hundreds of thousands dead...and even then, it took a preacher and a working woman to organize the Montgomery bus boycott, so that anybody can sit anywhere on a bus!....or that negroes could only drink out of water fountains so allotted to them?....less than 60 years ago....in this country?

thats national sin, and its never been dealt with.

dear sister, i'm a Jew, who follows Jesus. i have a bi-racial sister. let me ask this, on this very forum, is there one other Jew who follows Jesus?, is there a black person on this forum? You know the old saying, whats the most segregated hour of the week?, Sundays at 11, (or 10)

there are national wounds to be bound, and if anybody, in the clear Light of God, can deny that, so be it. i've said what i had to say, God love you, God love you all. S'chma!
neil

Re: - posted by wind_blows, on: 2010/2/17 16:40

Quote:
-----slavery, the institution of slavery, ripping whole families OUT of Africa, which is the theft of people, and bringing them here, selling and tearing families apart, is the equivalent of a Holocaust visited upon Africans. Its just that while the nazis documented their hell unleashed upon the Jewish people with thoroughness, there was no such documentation of the rape and murder of African slaves in the Americas. It grieves me no end, that while the founding fathers of this great nation were writing the high and mighty words, "All men are created equal", we did not ABOLISH the fell institution of slavery, think about it? Thats a NATIONAL sin, and it took the hell of a civil war to end this institution, hundreds of thousands dead...and even then, it took a preacher and a working woman to organize the Montgomery bus boycott, so that anybody can sit anywhere on a bus!....or that negroes could only drink out of water fountains so allotted to them?....less than 60 years ago....in this country? thats national sin, and its never been dealt with. dear sister, i'm a Jew, who follows Jesus. i have a bi-racial sister. let me ask this, on this very forum, is there one other Jew who follows Jesus?, is there a black person on this forum? You know the old saying, whats the most segregated hour of the week?, Sundays at 11, (or 10) there are national wounds to be bound, and if anybody, in the clear Light of God, can deny that, so be it. i've said what i had to say, God love you, God love you all. S'chma!
neil

I get what your saying about slavery and the wicked evil that it was and the effects you talk about, but I don't understand what you mentioned in your other post. How would or what would you want to see when you speak about coming clean? Do you mean like on a national level or individual people? Just trying to understand your heart on this a little better.

With much love in Him
ebeth

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Re: , on: 2010/2/17 16:48

ebeth, Isaiah says it MUCH better than me:

A Rebellious People

8And now, go, write it before them on a tablet
and inscribe it in a book,
that it may be for the time to come
as a witness forever.
9 For they are a rebellious people,
lying children,
children unwilling to hear
the instruction of the LORD;
10 who say to the seers, "Do not see,"
and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right;
speak to us smooth things,
prophesy illusions,
11 leave the way, turn aside from the path,
let us hear no more about the Holy One of Israel."
12 Therefore thus says the Holy One of Israel, "Because you despise this word
and trust in oppression and perverseness
and rely on them,
13 therefore this iniquity shall be to you
like a breach in a high wall, bulging out, and about to collapse,
whose breaking comes suddenly, in an instant;
14 and its breaking is like that of a potter's vessel
that is smashed so ruthlessly
that among its fragments not a shard is found
with which to take fire from the hearth,
or to dip up water out of the cistern."

Isaiah 30:8-14

Re: - posted by wind_blows, on: 2010/2/17 17:06

Hey natan

Thanks for your response.

It defiantly is important to treat all men with love unto Christ Jesus.

with much love in Him
ebeth

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/2/17 21:46

Santana: I actually don't even believe Jew and Gentile are different races. God drew a distinction, but I don't think the distinction is racial. Humans are humans. At Babel, when the people were divided, the pool of genetic traits among the smaller groups was, well, smaller. So certain traits tended to come out more than others. This was accentuated by the fact that geographic separation led to "natural selection" of traits that made it easier for people with particular genetic traits to survive. It was a harsh world after the flood. Imagine trying to live in a land just recovering from TOTAL destruction. Wow! Notice darker skinned people tend to be equatorial and lighter skinned people nearer the poles. It has nothing to do with race. Skin color is nothing more or less than hair color. Scripture says God made of one blood every nation and tribe on earth. There are very great cultural differences, but not racial differences. I think it is good to plainly state the Biblical position on race when it comes up. "Racism" is an ugly thing. I am not so sure that becoming centered up on trying to right all the wrongs done because of the "race" issue is very fruitful to the kingdom, although I guess God may call some to ring that bell continually. Paul actually taught on this to some extent when he told Christian slaves not to resent their masters and Christian masters to treat their slaves will. Titus 2. He was not trying to say "Slavery is good." He was simply saying that the important thing was to allow Christ to live through you in whatever condition you find yourself rather than to become an activist trying to change the conditions. The eternal spirit is of more value than the position of the flesh on this earth. Slavery is wrong, but to be a slave or not to be a slave is not as important as to be born again or not

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o be born again.

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/2/17 21:51

Hi Santana,

I think that you've asked some reasonable questions and worth considering.

If I could I like to share some things in response to this and what others have shared.

Quote:

----- Is it wrong not to be interested in your race and being a Christian?

Personally I don't think it is wrong at all and I think that for many of us, this is normal(that we do not normally or often think of ourselves in terms of a race anymore), especially if our race has never been a significant issue in our lives. But too , we should remember that for others, race has been and continues to be that, and I think we should be ready to be patient with others about this even if we believe that the normal and mature attitude about race is that it is no longer an issue for those who have come to Christ.

Quote:

-----I don't participate in these issues because I know the real issue is not skin color, nationality or sex. It's sin!!!

I agree also, but I think that even if we acknowledge this, it is still necessary to identify sin in particular in order to deal with it, even to say for instance, that attitudes about race can be sinful and particularly attitudes of hate. This brings to mind something that KingJimmy mentioned:

"I do find it interesting that in the many times I've listened to Ravenhill, Tozer, etc., I never really heard them **speak up** on race issues... and they lived in a time where race issues were very big things."(emphasis added)

It begs the question of why not? If bigotry and racial hatred were socially acceptable, even among some Christians, wasn't it still necessary to call it evil and sin and to identify it specifically?

When I first became a Christian I attended a Pentecostal congregation that was very ethnically diverse. Because it was a Pentecostal church there was often straightforward preaching about heart issues(relating to the members of the congregation specifically) and the Bishop never shyed away from naming sins from the pulpit and racial sins were no exception. One of the pastors and his wife that took my wife and I under their care were an interracial marriage, just as we are. He and I are white and our wives are both black. I mention that because although the congregation was very diverse I still recall him telling me about racial issues that he had seen and my wife had mentioned some things that she noticed to me also.

I think that racial hatred is a sin that is addressed in the Bible, and even by the Lord Jesus Christ.

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It is my understanding that the Jews at the time viewed samaritans as being racially inferior and that there was animosity between them. With that as a backdrop, I think it makes the story of the 'good samaritan' all the more striking and perhaps deeper in meaning.

A lawyer had stood up to question the Lord Jesus about how to gain eternal life. The Lord asked him (the man that asked the question being a lawyer) how he interpreted the law, that is, what was the requirement that the law gave. When the man replied in a way that was the same as the Lord Jesus' Own summation of the Law, that is, that in essence the Law required that we Love God with all, and man as ourselves, or particularly as it was in this case, **our neighbors**, when he replied that way, the Lord said that he had answered rightly, and told him "this do, and thou shalt live".

And then the Scripture says something interesting. It says that this lawyer, that because *he was willing to justify himself*, that he asked the Lord Jesus

"who is my neighbor?".

Well, that's an interesting question and I think it makes this reply that the Lord gave in relating the story about the *samaritan*, the "good samaritan" as we call it, I think it makes this story all the more striking in its context.

It must have been especially striking to hear for someone, who, so far as we know, may have been a devoutly religious man, and yet hated (or perhaps treated with relative disinterest or neglect for such would be a form of hatred, to have love or care with partiality), it must have been striking for him to hear a story that would say to him in effect, that a love that did not encompass all men, even those that he might have viewed as inferior or as an enemy, that a love like that did not encompass the meaning of the Law.

And so I think it is not unreasonable to suggest that it was a very direct purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ (who knew the heart of the man that He was speaking with) that it was a very direct purpose of His to tell him this story of the samaritan that He did.

I have to wonder did this story not speak as loudly in Churches in America (EDIT during the years of Slavery and Jim Crow and Segregation) as it did then?

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brother ChrisJD , on: 2010/2/18 12:37

you sure said that better than i EVER could in my ham handed venacular, God bless you. neil

Re: brother - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/2/18 20:27

Hey Neil, thank you for the encouragement, I could use it tonight.

I just got home and had stopped at the store to pick up a few things. I got into a squabble with the poor cashier over the price of an item that I purchased. It wasn't anything loud or rude but we both insisted we were right(he was and I was wrong).

The reason I was sure I was right was because the item I wanted to purchase was near a promotion that the store was running and I checked the sign carefully to see if the one I wanted was part of promotion, and I thought it was.

I've come to know by now that you have to read some of the signs on these promotions very carefully or you might get charged alot more than you think you will at the register.

So anyway, I should have just let it go and paid the full price like I normally would, or just say I don't want it then, but for some reason I didn't and now I need to apologise to the cashier.

But I thought this might be worthwhile to mention here also, because I think it ties in in a way to what you mentioned about the lingering effects of slavery upon the nation.

Why would I say that?

Well, in this little incident that I related, I think there are two things at least that are more than normal in our society:

We want to get something for nothing and we want to get the most we can, for the least amount, even if it is at the expense of others.

And I suppose too that I'm not unwilling to suspect that our big corporate benefactors are not unwilling to take advantage of these our desires in order to lure us into paying more than we would otherwise. Even if by deception.

In the end we have a generation called the entitlement generation and everybody is a victim and everyone deserves the best.

Alright, so what does any of that, even if it is true, have to do with slavery and the past?

A while back in another thread we were talking about this topic. It was around the time of the election. Another forum member had mentioned a Christian man that had been an early advocate for the abolition of slavery and it so happened that at the same time(it might have even been that same day) I decided to stop in a bookstore, and looking over the titles I came across a book about the man that he had mentioned. His name was John Woolman, a quaker, and he's been referred to as 'the Apostle of Abolition'. One of the pages that I came across contained a quote and also a reference to a passage in Leviticus and the quote really stood out to me.

I looked for it and found it online then. It still seems very profound:

"When proceedings have been from that wisdom which is from beneath and inequitable gain hath been gathered by a man and left as a gift to his children who entangled by the same worldly spirit have not attained to that clearness of light in which the channels of righteousness are opened and justice done to those who remain silent under injuries it hath under humbling exercise of mind appeared to rue that the sins of the fathers are embraced by the children and become their sins and thus in the days of tribulation the iniquities of the fathers are visited upon these children who take hold of

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the unrighteousness of their fathers and live in that spirit in which those iniquities were committed To this agreeth the prophecy of Moses concerning a rebellious people They that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies lands and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them Lev xxvi 39"

(<http://books.google.com/books?idzMEEAAAAYAAJ&lpg=PA283&ots=RpOzLqZin4&dq=%22John%20Woolman%22%20%22Moses%22%20%22iniquity%22&pg=PA283&ci=58#v=onepage&q&f=false>) <http://books.google.com/books?id=zMEEAAAAYAAJ&lpg=PA283&ots=RpOzLqZin4&dq=%22John%20Woolman%22%20%22Moses%22%20%22iniquity%22&pg=PA283&ci=58#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by boG (), on: 2010/2/18 21:55

It is interesting to note that the establishment of slavery is not actually declared to be sin. However, the abuse and unjust oppression of slaves is a sin. In fact, in this very manner, we are called the slaves of Christ. The lingering effects of slavery are thus, not slavery itself, but the horrendous brutality and neglect by slave-traders and owners in the mass dehumanization of our neighbor.

brother Chris , on: 2010/2/18 22:27

thank you for YOUR encouragement as well, as i am so pressed out in spirit right now also. The Ruach Hakodesh, the Holy Spirit is speaking to me very very powerfully about the land of Israel, and the looming threat.

Its kind of like when the air is thick with that smell of an impending thunderstorm, that one can see on the horizon, the kind of thunderstorm that spawns tornadoes, and i feel it so powerfully in the Spirit.

Chris, i dont claim any gift of prophecy, i just know what i feel in the Holy Ghost. forgive me for going on as such.

There's another book you might want to read. a Rev John Rankin, living in Ripley Ohio, on the river, saved over 2,000 escaped slaves, had a \$3,000 bounty on his head, had heard that his very own brother had bought a slave. John, in his grief wrote a series of 13 letters to his brother, systematically outlining in Scripture, how slavery is and was SIN. This book set the nation afire, it was the first cogent Scriptural argument against slavery circa 1830.

I'll give the link to you, in print its very hard to find, the last modern printing was in 1970, which i have:

(<http://books.google.com/books?idus0SAAAAYAAJ&printsecfrontcover&dq=john+raNkin+slavery&ei=QNS5TVIpWizASnwtScCw&cd1#v=onepage&q&f=false>) "Letters on American Slavery ---Rev John Rankin 1838

LETTER I.

"My Dear Brother:

I received yours of the 2d December, with mingled sensations of pleasure and pain; it gave me pleasure to hear of your health, and pain to hear of your purchasing slaves. I consider involuntary slavery a never-failing fountain of the grossest immorality, and one of the deepest sources of human misery; it hangs like the mantle of night over our republic, and shadows its rising glories. I sincerely pity the man who tinges his hand in the unhallowed thing that is fraught with the tears, and sweat, and groans, and blood of hapless millions of innocent, unoffending people.

A mistaken brother, who has manifested to me a kind and generous heart, claims my strongest sympathies. When I see him involved in what is both sinful and dangerous, shall I not strive to liberate him? Does he wander from the paths of rectitude, and shall not fraternal affection pursue, and call him from the verge of ruin and the unperceived precipice of woe, to the fair and pleasant walks of piety and peace ? Shall I suffer sin upon my brother ? No — his kindness to me forbids it, fraternal love forbids it, and what is still more to be regarded, the law of God forbids it. Though he has wandered for the moment, may I not hope to show him his error, and restrain his wanderings?

Under such views and feelings, I have resolved to address you, in a series of letters, on the injustice of enslaving the Africans. This I hope you will receive as an expression of fraternal affection, as well as of gratitude to you for former favors.

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I entreat you to give me that candid attention which the fondness of a brother solicits, and the importance of the subject demands. In the commencement I think it proper to apprise you that several things, connected with the present condition of the Africans, tend to bias the mind against them, and consequently incapacitate it for an impartial decision with respect to their rights."

I hope this blesses you, much love in Jesus, neil

Re: brother Chris , on: 2010/2/24 12:58

Quote:
-----It grieves me no end, that while the founding fathers of this great nation were writing the high and mighty words, "All men are created equal", we did not ABOLISH the fell institution of slavery, think about it?

An accurate history of this reveals that slavery was very much an issue of debate even while drafting the US Constitution. Yes, unfortunate and distressing that they did not abolish it right then and there. Absolutely. But let's not make it sound like it was swept under the carpet and ignored. It certainly was not.

Krispy

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by boG (), on: 2010/2/24 21:33

Leviticus 25:44-46

"Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, (ie. slaves) which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour."

Quote:
-----Slavery, the institution of slavery, ripping whole families OUT of Africa, which is the theft of people, and bringing them here, selling and tearing families apart, is the equivalent of a Holocaust visited upon Africans. Its just that while the nazis documented their hell unleashed upon the Jewish people with thoroughness, there was no such documentation of the rape and murder of African slaves in the Americas. It grieves me no end, that while the founding fathers of this great nation were writing the high and mighty words, "All men are created equal", we did not ABOLISH the fell institution of slavery, think about it?

Curious how strange your words sound when read after the Bible. I am thinking about it, but I do not casually make Emotional judgments. I am not moved one way or another concerning established slavery. As I previously stated, all that concerns me is neglecting to love our neighbor as Christ Jesus so loved us. It is only confusing the matter to equate slavery with malice. For I cannot overlook that slavery is never included among the deeds of sin. If you will raise a cry against sin then you may do so against "the theft of people" (ie. kidnapping) and "the rape and murder" of both slave and free. I do hope you are aware that 'slavery' does not mean the theft of people.

Quote:
-----unfortunate and distressing that they did not abolish right then and there.

Recall, in example of Lev. 25:36, "they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour." Paul sent his Christian brother Onesimus, a slave, back to serve his Christian master, Philemon.

Philemon 1:15-16

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"... that you would have him back forever, no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord."

1 Timothy 6:1-2

"Let as many servants as are under the yoke count their own masters worthy of all honour, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed. And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort."

1 Peter 2:13-19

"Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the slaves of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. Slaves, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully."

Colossians 4:1

"masters, give unto your slaves that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven."

Ephesians 6:5-10

"Slaves, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him. Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by boG (), on: 2010/2/24 22:05

With all of that laid out, the question of whether or not it is acceptable for a Christian government to involve itself in the establishment or abolishment of slavery is debatable. As there do not appear to be any passages encouraging that slavery ought to be done. And there are certainly no verses to defend that it ought to never be done. The matter appears to be one of permission. Therefore, what we do find are certain regulations for how masters/slaves ought to behave, if and when it is done.

To refer to the previous verses from Leviticus 25:39-45,

"And if thy brother that dwelleth by thee be waxen poor, and be sold unto thee; thou shalt not compel him to serve as a bondservant: But as an hired servant, and as a sojourner, he shall be with thee, and shall serve thee unto the year of jubilee: And then shall he depart from thee, both he and his children with him, and shall return unto his own family, and unto the possession of his fathers shall he return. For they are my servants, which I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: they shall not be sold as bondmen. Thou shalt not rule over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God. Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession."

Thus, here we can see how the institution of hired-servants and slaves can be an act of compassion for those who are poor and destitute.

Re: Is it wrong not to care about race issues? - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2010/2/25 8:47

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Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2010/2/25 20:20

Greetings all,

BoG,

Quote:

-----Leviticus 25:44-46

"Both thy bondmen, and thy bondmaids, (ie. slaves) which thou shalt have, shall be of the heathen that are round about you; of them shall ye buy bondmen and bondmaids. Moreover of the children of the strangers that do sojourn among you, of them shall ye buy, and of their families that are with you, which they begat in your land: and they shall be your possession. And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them for ever or a possession; they shall be your bondmen for ever: but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour."

Quote:

Slavery, the institution of slavery, ripping whole families OUT of Africa, which is the theft of people, and bringing them here, selling and tearing families apart, is the equivalent of a Holocaust visited upon Africans. Its just that while the nazis documented their hell unleashed upon the Jewish people with thoroughness, there was no such documentation of the rape and murder of African slaves in the Americas. It grieves me no end, that while the founding fathers of this great nation were writing the high and mighty words, "All men are created equal", we did not ABOLISH the fell institution of slavery, think about it?

Curious how strange your words sound when read after the Bible.

I think what Neil is addressing is not whether or not God *permitted* the Israelites to own slaves, something not only ubiquitous in the ancient world, but also practical on various levels because of the realities of life then, **BUT whether or not the form Slavery took and how it was practiced in America was sinful.**

But slavery as an institution and in general, whether necessary for a time in mans history or even permitted by God among the ancient Israelites was only ever necessary because of the sinfulness of man, not because it was good.

While God permitted slavery even among His people in the ancient world, was it something that needed to or should have continued for as long as it did, or in 17th century America?

In the passage that you quoted from Leviticus, notice that it says they were permitted to **buy** slaves, not to steal(kidnap) persons from their homelands(which is what I think Neil was referring to in saying "ripping whole families OUT of Africa, which is the theft of people".

Manstealing under the same Law was punishable by death.

"And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death."

- Exodus 21:16

Although the same passage said that the children of Israel were permitted to take slaves of foreigners(strangers), they were also commanded to not **oppress those that were strangers among them**, why? because they too were once strangers, in the land of Egypt(Ex 23:9). They were not allowed to oppress hired servants either(Deut 24:14).

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What's more, in the same passage, the children of Israel were forbidden from taking slaves **from among their brethren.**

"...but over your brethren the children of Israel, ye shall not rule one over another with rigour"

Was the way slavery was practiced in a "Christianised" America of the 17th century, sinful?

Yes, Paul and Peter do address the issue of slavery. Their exhortation for slaves to obey their masters is not though a line of demarcation drawn in the sands of history saying that the practice of enslaving others was or is ultimately **good**. Their instructions to believing slaves were the spiritual antedotes and balms that were necessary for them to live under the realities of life in the most godly way and in the way that would most honor God and the Gospel(1Ti 6:1).

Likewise their instructions to believing masters were the same and what would most elevate and lift up a world in bondage and that was accustomed to thriving at the expense of others, and to lead them to what would be most becoming of the Gospel of Christ, Who came to make men free, not enslave them.

And so Paul tells Philemon to receive his servant that had fled from him, to receive him(that is, Paul's own bowels he says), to receive him, this time, not as a servant, but above a servant,

as a brother.

Indeed, the question was, and perhaps for some reading this now, still is, was slavery as it was practiced in Christian America for 400 years, necessary, or sinful?

Whatever others would wish to remember about Dr King's life, he was not so wrong as he, in dreaming, that one day this nation would rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

...And endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which the Founders said were: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Men are not called upon to live in the darkness of the ancient past but in the light of revelation that they themselves have received. And America was and is not ancient Rome nor was she formed in Rome's darkness, but she has had GREAT LIGHT.

I'll close with some of the opening lines of Dr. King's Speech, about that dream, wish you all well:

"Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand signed the Emancipation Proclamation. His momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years la

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ter, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Re: well ChrisJD, on: 2010/2/25 23:19

you sure gave me some hope that i got at least ONE brother out there. Thank you so much and God bless you so richly, chaverim, neil

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/26 0:47

Quote:

-----you sure gave me some hope that i got at least ONE brother out there.

Dear Neil

I pray that you know in your heart that you have more then just one brother out there.

with much love for you brother
God bless
maryjane

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God bless you MJ , on: 2010/2/26 11:28

Quote:

-----I pray that you know in your heart that you have more than just one brother out there.

Yes! and a sister or two here, Praise the Name of Jesus Messiah.

neil

Re: God bless you MJ - posted by MaryJane, on: 2010/2/26 12:12

Dear Neil

So glad to hear you say that:) I know your heart has been very heavy for Israel. I just want you to be encouraged and know that we are praying for you brother.

God Bless you and take care
maryjane