

## Acts 17:22-31

We are living in a nation that is being sharply divided along racial lines. People are being judged based on the color of their skin, rather than on the content of their character. Martin Luther King, Jr might today be considered a dangerous, far-right extremist for suggesting that we treat people of all races equally! Those who have the courage to say that all lives matter are condemned for hate speech. In the midst of this toxic political and media-driven environment, it is important to understand that God is not a racist. He has a wonderful message of good news for people of every color. "And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (*Acts 17:26*).

Biblically, there are not many races, but one race of people, the human race; all people are derived from Adam and all are made in the image of God. "God so loved **the world**" (*John 3:16*), which certainly includes people of every racial and ethnic background. The gospel message is to go to "all men everywhere" (*Acts 17:30*) and is to be preached to "every creature," that is, to every created person (*Mark 16:15*).



Godly missionaries have given their lives to reach out to indigenous peoples of every race, every color, and every tribe. In God's living organism, the Church, "there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumsion, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all" (*Col. 3:11*).



The Bible clearly teaches that the color of a man's skin cannot be changed, no more than you can change a leopard's spots (*Jer. 13:23*), and men must never be blamed for what they cannot change. Heaven is not for racists, because gathered in that heavenly throng are the redeemed "out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (*Rev. 5:9*).



~*George Zeller:* www.middletownbiblechurch.org





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