

Ethnic Liaisons and Ethnic Synergy as a Biblical Alternative to Color Blindness

A few years ago I was out on a boat in a New Jersey bay with my brother in law. We had taken the sail down, so we were not tracking in any particular direction. On the surface, we were, let's say, compass-neutral. Yet we were close enough to an inlet leading to the ocean, that a current pushed us away from our stationary position. That experience was a vivid reminder that neutral in the mind does not always equal neutral in reality.

That truism is especially true regarding race relations. When I was growing up, I would get offended if someone called me a racist. Yet virtually all of my friends were White. It was just natural—sinfully natural—to be around people who looked like me and behaved like me. It was an unblissfully ignorant comfort zone—and a reality for much of America, for people of any race or ethnicity. It is our default pattern, tied to our sin nature, that makes us gravitate toward people who look like us. It takes a deep commitment to Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, to make us naturally desire cross-racial friendships and fellowships. It is a deeply agape love, from that perfect Godly higher power, that instills within us a thrilling desire of embracing people who are racially and culturally different from us. I needed that gentle prodding from the Holy Spirit to transform me from a life a benign, unintended racial exclusion, to a strong calling to advocate for racial reconciliation, inclusion and unity across the USA. I strongly suspect that God has kept me miraculously alive after 10 years of metastatic cancer, to not only proclaim His miracles for Evangelism—but also to anoint me with His calling to bridge the tragic racial divide in the Bible believing churches.

Now, let us consider this strong color blindness movement from the secular and religious right, and their acts to impose that misguided philosophy across the USA. I believe that most of the color blindness advocates would vehemently object to being called a racist. In their minds, color blindness is the ultimate anti-racism because it is strictly neutral. They are metaphorically missing the boat reference above, and fail to see that their stated race neutrality is actually a White bias due to our unavoidable sin nature and our natural bent to be drawn to people who like ourselves. This unconscious bias at least partially explains why these so called color blind people so strongly embraces an anti-Critical Race Theory movement that focuses on how White people are made to “unfairly” feel uncomfortable, and to be vilified as racial oppressors. And it further explains why many of these anti-CRT proponents almost never speak up against racism against people of color, anti-semitism or clearly documented racial injustices tied to the remaining impacts of 400 years of racial horrors and current inequities remaining in some societal systems. The equation is tragically simple: Intended racial neutrality equals policy actions favoring White people equals the compounding a racial discrimination, racial division, deep hurt, injustice equals a weakened and more ineffective church and a struggling America.

The color blindness dynamic involves intellectual denial and weird mental gymnastics and downright dishonesty. What sane person does not recognize race or skin color, and experience mental reactions to those observations? The 800 pound elephant in the room never goes away, no matter how hard they try, or develop their political talking points. I

suspect that many in the color blind movement don't actually believe that color blindness is real—but they cling to it out of allegiance to a political party or ideology. Sometimes these color blind proponents will feature a hard right wing Black person or other person of color to deliver their message. I mean, they just happened to accidentally trip over these people of color on their way to their crusade? This may be good political strategy; but it has nothing to do with color blindness. Also, I am convinced that many in the purported color blind movement know very well that color blindness is just a dog whistle to downplay their intention to fight just for White people and hide White nationalist leanings. The intellectual fraud and moral bankruptcy of the color blind movement ultimately brings more pushback against some legitimate concerns that they raise re: harsh CRT teachings on all White people being racists or oppressors—when these concerns would be better served in cross-racial discussions on the larger paradigm of race relations in the church and across the USA. This color blind movement and its connection to the anti-CRT movement has produced mindblowing ignorance and self-destructive dynamics. For instance, they weaponize the Black church term “woke” to lump race relations and LGBT as twin evils, and thus give the left an excuse to say that religious exemptions to LGBT laws will lead to erosion of people of color civil rights protections in the name of religious liberty. All this does is drive more moderate people into the arms of the powerful officials promoting the LGBT agenda over the Constitutional and human rights of people of faith.

This racial bias toward our own race in the context of our delusion of racial neutrality, is evident in overwhelming statistics. 59 years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said that 11:00 Sunday morning is the most segregated hour of the week, that reality remains in Christian churches. Although many Christians have been prompted by the Holy Spirit to cross racial and cultural lines and worship in multi-ethnic ways, an estimated 80% of churches in the USA remain racially segregated. Until very recently, the Christian music was very much segregated. Blacks and other people of color were almost totally excluded from the Christian Contemporary Music industry. It took spirit-driven awareness in the church following the highly publicized unjust killings of several Black people in 2020 to change the industry to become more racially inclusive. Even now, the self-centered racial comfort zone is painfully evident on the social media postings of so many of these professed Christian musicians. For many, especially the White Christian musicians, you have to look hard on their Facebook pages to find a person of color. This racial self-centeredness is just in our DNA as fallen humans, and the color blind movement just exacerbates this divisive sin pattern, and needlessly fractures the Christian church—when the answer is Bible and spirit-inspired love across racial lines.

Let's subject the color blind philosophy to Christian doctrinal and Biblical scrutiny. Where in the Bible does it command us to be color blind and play dumb on race and ethnicity? Nowhere that I could find. The Bible is a rich description of race and ethnicity, and moral commands on how we care to relate to each other across racial/ethnic lines. In Genesis 11, God disrupted the Tower of Babel and marked out clear locations for people of different races, ethnicities and nationalities. Thus, right from the beginning God's actions were in support of the beautiful mosaic of different ethnicities. Numbers 12 is a very early example of God's righteous rage against racism, when God

afflicted Miriam with leprosy for her racist objections to Moses's African wife. At no time were Moses or Miriam, or anyone else there, color blind. In Matthew 28, the Great Commission, Jesus specifically speaks about all nations—not a human blob devoid of race, or nationality. Colossians 3 v. 11 calls for equality across all racial lines and mentions specific and different ethnic groups and nationalities. Acts 8 is a beautiful depiction of tender fellowship between an African traveler and a Jewish Christian (Philip). Acts 10 and 11 is a powerful intervention of God between the Jewish Apostle Peter and a Roman centurion. The racial/ethnic distinctions were clear, as was the command for fellowship across racial/ethnic lines. Ephesians 2 calls for reconciliation with clear ethnic distinctions: Jew and Gentile. Revelation 7 describes a glorious depiction of heaven with “every nation, tribe, people and language”—not some amoebic blob of people. To the extent that the Bible is about people as well as about God and Jesus, ethnic liaisons and ethnic synergy flows all the way through the Bible. Clearly it is the heartbeat of God.

We thus conclude that the color blind movement is outside the Biblical world view, and that Christians need to unite around Biblical teachings on racial inclusion, reconciliation, unity and justice pursued via fellowships and partnerships across racial lines that I term ethnic liaisons. That is bringing the heart of the Bible and God's moral authority down to Earth and extending Jesus's agape love relentlessly to people of all backgrounds: Matthew 22 v. 39.

Practically speaking, what would these ethnic liaisons look like? They would begin with the shared blessings and callings we have via a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God would spur us across racial lines to potentially collaborate on Evangelism and community service projects. There would be shared interests, hobbies, family connections. Philippians 2 vs. 3-4 would kick in when these cross-racial saints pour into the Bible and the Holy Spirit. That means we would consider the other person, with their unique conditions and challenges, equal to or better than ourselves. With God's intervention, here is what the ethnic liaisons would not look like:

From the people of color perspective, there would not be raging about how bad White people are. There would not be an alliance out of hurt with un-Christian movements that preach Marxism, the destruction of the nuclear family, killing of unborn children, etc. There would not be a toleration for “safe spaces” where only people of color are allowed and White people cannot come in. The Whites would be viewed as bothers and sisters in Christ, not as oppressors. From the White perspective, there would not be talk about the White people being the most mistreated race in America. There would not be declarations that we are now in a post-racial society where we don't talk about race anymore. There would not be a focus on White comfort over justice and inclusion issues impacting people of color. There will be no more promoting impositions of cancel culture on educational discussions of racial history, racial justice and diversity.

Philippians 2 vs. 3-4 will kick in Biblical nuance and empathy. To the extent that people of color brothers and sisters feel pain and hurt from the remaining impacts and collateral damage from the racial horror show in America, White people will walk alongside them.

White people will be open to examining any remaining racial injustices, even if not everyone agrees with the solutions. People of color will be open to concerns expressed by White people that they are considered oppressors. They will also acknowledge that Whites too can be victims of race discrimination. In the ethnic liaisons, people of all racial/ethnic backgrounds will experience righteous anger and speak out when there is racism or hate actions/crimes. The wages of ethnic liaisons include a unified church, a stronger church more capable of winning against corrupt secular cultural forces, a stronger and more ethnic America, and many more people attracted to the Christian Gospel. The wages of the color blind movement include festering racial hurt, racial division, division in the church, a weaker America, and eyesore barriers to people accepting Jesus Christ.

The ethnic liaisons I describe above are actually happening and real, for spirit filled and Bible believing Christians. My prayer is that, while I love professed Christians in the color blind movement, they embrace Biblical teachings on race relations and realize that the Christian Gospel is over and above any political party or ideological leanings they may have. My loving prayer is the same for the professed Christians on the left who embrace the killing of unborn children, un-Biblical sex practices, and similar un-Christian ideas.

This is a clarion call for Bible-believing Christians to publicly advocate for ethnic liaisons and cross-racial fellowships as the gateway to love and reconciliation—as a clear alternative to the destructive influences of the left and right, including Neo-Marxism and the color blind movement. This advocacy needs to be demonstrated in churches, in our jobs, our schools, in our social contacts—and always in conjunction with sharing the Christian Gospel as part of the Holistic Gospel.

Those of us Christians in the arts, whether it be music, novels, theatre, or whatever, need to incorporate a climate of cross-racial inclusion in our artistic endeavors. To walk the talk, I am again highlighting my Christian novel *Roackaseen Valley* that I am making available free to everyone in the world. I call *Roackaseen Valley* my miracle book—not only because God inspired me to write it in 23 days—but also because He steered it away from the stifling publishing industry to be a complimentary liberty book that has reached tens of thousands of readers in every continent. Given its futuristic premise in the context of American demographics well into the 21st Century, *Roackaseen Valley* may be the only Christian suspense drama novel ever to highlight major characters who are Black, White, Latino and Asian Pacific Islander American, to put down a serious and mayhem-causing evil across the world. It's all fiction but entertaining with family friendly Gospel themes. *Roackaseen Valley* is free for everyone on the Website: christiansocialjustice.org—the Website with Biblical justice info and Christian Evangelism resources.