

## Should there be a separation of the races?

There are many people to claim that people of the different “races” should remain separate from one another and not have deeply personal relationships especially relationships that become intimate.

1. What do we know about the relationship between the different “races”?

Acts **17:24-27**

Romans **5:11-12**

Genesis **3:20**

Genesis **11:6-9**

The primary thing to remember is that every human being that has ever lived is physically related to every other human being. The concept of “races” is a human invention that attempts to create the concept of one group of people as being sufficiently different from another group of people to warrant maintaining a separation between them. The reality is that there is only one “race” of people but there are several distinctions between people due to different languages and cultural expectations and norms.

2. Why might some people believe that the “races” ought to be kept separate?

Deuteronomy **7:2-3; 32:7-9**

2 Kings **17:24-26**

The primary issue that is raised in the scriptures dealing with a separation of people has to do with the people of Israel commanded by God to not marry the people of other nations that reside around them. The second issue is the understanding that God has established the plurality of nations and to some degree, He has identified the boundaries of the nations. At the same time, it was common for one nation to conquer a nation, thus expanding the “borders” of one nation while shrinking the “borders” of another nation. Still God remains in control of these boundaries.

3. What point is God really after with regards to marriage relationships of different people?

Deuteronomy **7:3-6**

1 Corinthians **7:10-14**

2 Corinthians **6:14-16**

The real issue that God is dealing with is that believers in God should not marry or form intimate relationships with unbelievers. It is quite common for the unbeliever in an unequally yoked relationship to draw the believer away from God rather than the believer draw the unbeliever closer to God.

4. What do we say to those who claim that the Bible teaches to keep the “races” different?

Ruth **4:10-17**

Matthew **1:1-6**

Ruth was from Moab and was married into the people of Israel. She is the great-grandmother of David who is an ancestor of Jesus. Looking at the ancestry of Jesus, there are three women who have been mentioned that we know were not people of Israel. Tamar – daughter-in-law of Judah and mother of two of his children. We don't know what people she came from but she was in Timnath which belonged to the Philistines during the time of the Judges. Rahab was a Canaanite. Ruth was a Moabite.

