

How many different races of people are there?

For several centuries people have evaluated others based upon the concept of there being different “races” of people that should or should not be together (especially in marriage) and an associated evaluation of the character of the person based upon external characteristics.

1. What is meant by race?

Merriam-Webster dictionary:

- 1) a breeding stock of animals
- 2) a family, tribe, people or nation belonging to the same stock

When dealing with people, the term “race” is used to identify a group of people that are of “the same stock” or are sufficiently similar that they can breed and be together. It has also been used to identify what kind of jobs the person will be capable of performing. The more “menial” tasks would be left to the “lower races”. The term has historically be associated with Darwin's “Origin of the Species” book in which he identified a plurality of races placing the “Caucasian” at the peak of evolutionary development and the “Negroid” at the bottom of evolutionary development.

2. Why might people believe that some people are naturally superior to other people?

Genesis **9:22-26**

Ezra **9:12**

Nehemiah **10:29-30**

Nehemiah **13:25-27**

2 Corinthians **6:17**

The considered value or worth of various people partially stems from the call of Noah to mark the sons of Ham as “Cursed”. These sons of Ham are considered to be the people that inhabited the African continent and tend to be very dark skinned. There are also multiple condemnations of the people of Israel who had married non-Israelite people. Such mixed marriages are seen by many as a condemnation of marrying outside of ones “stock” of people.

3. What was God's concern that was related to such mixed marriages?

Exodus **34:12-16**

Judges **3:4-7**

2 Corinthians **6:14-18**

Amos **3:3**

1 Kings **11:4-10**

God's only concern with the marriage between various groups of people was the relationship between the people and God. The context demonstrates that the non-Israelite person would draw the person from following after God and toward following after the demons that they considered to be a “god”. That is what Solomon discovered the hard way.

4. Are there any examples of such God blessed “racially” mixed marriages?

Joshua **6:17**

Ruth **1:4**

Matthew **1:3, 5**

Judges **14:1-4**

Rahab the harlot (a Canaanite) and Ruth (a Moabite) were used of God to bring into this world Jesus the Son of God. To a lesser degree, Samson's pursuit of a Philistine daughter was orchestrated by God in order to bring down the Philistine nation and bring deliverance of the nation of Israel.

5. How should the Christian view the various people with differing physical characteristics?

Acts **17:24-28**

Genesis **3:20**

Genesis **10:1-2**

Genesis **11:6-9**

The reality is that with respect to the common definition of “race”, there is only one “race” of people, the human race. Every single human being, whether Caucasian, Asian, Negroid, Latin, or whatever you may call the different people group, are descendents of the one man Adam and his one wife Eve. We are all likewise descendents of Noah and his three sons. Historically, it is believed that after the tower of Babel that the descendents of Japheth went to the north (Europe & Soviet Union area), Ham went South-West (Middle East and Africa) and Shem went South-East (Asia). The different physical characteristics of the people is related to genetic isolation and not value or worth.