

GLEANINGS — May 17, A.D. 2015
How to Crush Racism

Isaiah (6:5) proclaimed himself a man of unclean lips who dwelled among a people of unclean lips. How many people today of WHATEVER ethnic background take the same view of their own people group according to the flesh?

The apostle who was bold enough to say by the Holy Spirit, "be imitators of me, as I am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1) never said anything like: "Say it loud! I'm a Jew and I'm proud!"

Instead, he wrote under inspiration: "...If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews...but what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ." (Philippians 3:4-7, condensed) In verse 8, he adds that he counts such things as rubbish – literally DUNG in the original language!

How many people today, for Christ's sake, are willing to regard their ethnic heritage as dung – WHATEVER that heritage might be? Who, like Isaiah and Paul, gladly cast off any confidence in it or pride about it? Do any of us represent the world's one sinless ethnic group? What nationality is not "a people of unclean lips?" Who can rightfully count himself as belonging to a superior tribe?

Who is more commended in Scripture than the beloved Daniel (cf. Daniel 9:23; ch. 10; Ezekiel 14)? Yet in his prayers he confessed his people's SINS. He did not appeal to God based on his people's excellence!

As Christians, let us go way beyond the world's anemic attempts to legislate and cajole genuine, humble harmony. Let's SHOW the world our unity in Christ, instead of adopting the world's ways when it comes to handling ethnic conflict. Let's think Biblically, not according to the world's categories. Don't be forced into the world's mold. Instead be transformed by the renewal of the mind, Romans 12.

This one nation under God, America, has some great blemishes on its record indeed! And although God (*Whose righteousness is as far above man's comprehension as are all the attributes of His eternal, holy, glorious perfection*) can visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Him (Exodus 20:5) with perfect justice, it is our place to rightly apply the precept of this divine commandment to our society:

"Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall children be put to death for their fathers; a person shall be put to death for his own sin." (Deuteronomy 24:16)

Do we see odious people today who look down on those of other ethnic backgrounds, and mistreat them? Do you see an individual snob who wears personal pride like a necklace, ceaselessly despising anybody of any color, and counting himself better than all?

Yes, those are sins – national and personal. But the living cannot be held responsible by any human judge for what was done by their forefathers. Nor can the living whose ancestors were mistreated escape responsibility for their own actions. Neither criminal records nor "victim-hood" can be inherited.

Forgetting those things which are behind, let us reach forward to those things which are ahead. Let us who are disciples press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."