

# Race and Roses

In fourth grade my best friend was black. I never saw him as anything other than my friend. Because of our friendship I thought I understood him and he understood me. But I guess I, as a white man, probably can't understand considering the history behind the history of his race. I came to this conclusion after hearing a white person and a black person having an honest conversation. This conversation was not only honest, but loving. Both sides were frank, yet considerate. The white lady said that we should have a color blind society. The black lady said if you don't see my color then you can't possibly see me. That struck me like a brick, falling out of the sky! Because I never think about my race. It's not what I am. But to this person it is very important. Jesus said we should love our neighbor as we love ourselves. And when he was asked "who is my neighbor?" Jesus addressed the race issue that was prevalent in Palestine at the time. So I filed this conversation away in my mind. I can not solve this problem in our society. But I know who can.

A couple of weeks later I was listening to a sermon from Voddie Baucham. He brought up the same comment the white lady had said about a color blind society. Voddie rightly said this does not glorify God. He said that God created roses, and all roses are roses. I thought in my mind, "Okay, simple concept so far." He went on to say that roses come in a variety of colors. Each one is beautiful, each one is as unique as the next. So not only are the color and shade different, but the texture, size and shape are as distinct as the one before it.

Ask yourself the simple question "why?" first ask yourself why did he point that out? Why are the roses so vast and different? Does this apply to us in humanity? And how does this glorify God?

Voddie's illustration was an obvious parallel to humanity. He was saying that all of those differences we see in the roses, is no different than the differences we see in humanity because God did that! That should be celebrated! God, in all of his knowledge and wisdom, decided that if we can admire the beauty of one another, if we can get passed what separates us from one another and look at one another as he sees us, that THEN AND ONLY THEN CAN WE EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND HIM! And that Glorifies God.

But I want to point out something that I myself have gleaned from scripture. This wouldn't be a very good essay if I just quoted the work of another man. But before you continue please read 2 Corinthians chapter 5. Are you back? Did you read it? I certainly hope you did. It's a short chapter and it is important to the conversation. In this chapter, Paul is talking about the human body. He is referring to it as a tent. Let's stop right there and consider the implications of Paul's statement. If our bodies are a tent, then we are not our bodies. If you climb into a tent, do you become the tent? Obviously not! That would be silly.

Right now someone is questioning in their mind. What? I thought we are made in the image of God? Are we made physically in the image of God or is it our souls? My answer is yes. We have a head sitting on a torso with two arms and two legs, so physically we have the appearance of God.(col 1:15) and yes our souls are also made in the image of God.

**But if i'm not the tent then who am I? This is probably the most important question you could possibly ask yourself besides the question, who is God? Brother Josh Yonts has some casting the net videos that answer that question and i encourage you to watch those videos. There are links to them here on the fccop website. It is very important to understand who God is in order to understand who we are. But we were made to worship God. not for his binofit, but for ours. God is love and he could not have not created us. He wanted us to know his love. So he made us as eternal souls so that we could enjoy his love and holiness forever. But we as sinful human beings really messed things up by bringing sin into the world. The first two human beings lived in paradise. But they rebelled against God and brought death, disease, anger, hatred, greed, corruption, racism and many other evils into the world. As a result we all have a grave waiting on us. It's a statistical certainty. 100 out of 100 people die. But it gets worse. If we die without redemption, we will die an eternal death. You will be resurrected with a new body, Judged in accordance with God's law, found guilty and banished from his presents forever. You can not be redeemed by your own work. In other words you can't do enough good to earn your way to heaven. Scripture says that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. outside of Christ you are guilty. So that is the judgment.**

**But that is also the good news. God saw that men are helpless to sin. He saw that we were incapable of doing it ourselves. So he sent his own son to earth, to wrap himself in flesh, live a perfect life and fulfill the law. This made him the perfect sacrifice that no animal or any other human being could be. So he offered himself as an atoning sacrifice on the cross at calvary, taking our sin upon himself, paying the penalty for sin on our behalf. And if we repent and are baptized, (acts 2:38) we will receive the gift of the holy spirit, that helps us to live a true and faithful life. And as we live that life, seeking to glorify God, we are progressively sanctified. But it gets better. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, he sits at the right hand of the father to intercede for us when we goof up. And believe me you will. But he will give us eternal life with him so that we might fulfill our original purpose, worshipping him!**

**You might have thought I chased a rabbit and gotten off topic. But let me assure you I did not. This is the cure for all the evil in any society. The only way we can come to understand ourselves is to come to Christ and rest upon the word he has given us.**

