

WHY IS THERE RACISM?

***Earl A Sealy**

*Formerly of Lynn University
3601 North Military Trail
Boca Raton, FL 33431, U.S.A.*

**Author for Correspondence: dr.earlsealy@gmail.com*

INTRODUCTION

Racism is a phenomenon that is evident in societies that are multiracial – more common in some than others. In some societies there is systemic racism and in this regard it can be subtle, or outrageous, or both. When racism persists in a civilization (culture) for a long period of time without being addressed it can take centuries to achieve small changes, for example Western civilizations –United States of America and some British Commonwealth countries. If not addressed early racism can become a cultural “norm”.

There is no scientific reason for racism, but it is a cultural and social phenomenon based on a belief. The stigma is manifested through misinformation, indoctrination, life experiences and inadequate education. The communication and jet era has allowed individuals to inhabit different geographical regions through migration and as a result the world is becoming more multiracial. Hence racism should be addressed immediately wherever it occurs and significant steps should be taken worldwide to prevent and denounce racist communication in the now global media, and enforce all the international commitments to human and civil rights.

Race based evidence do not support the superiority of one race over another. Prejudice and discrimination are based on individualized life experiences, indoctrination and self-preservation. As a result some individuals because of their situation feel uncomfortable with individuals of a different race.

Why Racism?

The American Heritage College Dictionary (2002) defined racism as:

(1) The belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and that a particular race is superior to others.

(2) Discrimination or prejudice based on race.

There is no scientific reason- Biological (Genetic or Biochemical) for racism. All human beings are under the same species of *Homo sapiens* regardless of race. All life began the same place and it is widely accepted that there was initially one race and the different races came about through adaptation to the different regions they inhabit after migration from the initial place. Slight genetic and Biochemical differences brought about through adaptation to the different environments are expressed mainly in coloration although other phenotypic structural differences are evident. Interracial sexual behavior is selected for, thus solidifying the concept of one species with the production of viable offspring. Man and monkey evolved from a common ancestor and it is not true that the black man evolved from monkey and the other races did not.

The reasons for racism are mainly societal and are due to:

(1) Religious misinformation and indoctrination.

(2) Political misinformation and indoctrination.

(3) The concept of sugarcane slavery.

(4) Divisive behavior for economic, political or social gains-sometimes personal or group related.

(5) Poor education-that emphasizes that color differences means significantly different ability, character etc.

(6) Great respect for the mischievous opinions of an influential individual among followers and colleagues.

(7) Generational belief.

(8) Hate, Grudge, Envy-common both within and between races.

(9) Belief that presence and achievement of an individual of a particular race has created a condition that hinders the advancement of an individual of another race.

All races have high achievers, low achievers, laborers, technocrats, scientists, teachers, Theologians etc. This certainly does not show superiority of one race over another. Discrimination based on race is driven by the desire to help individuals of one race at the expense of another or simply the exclusion of a race or races from social, educational, cultural, economic or political engagements. It is based on the false concept that races should not mix socially, sexually or otherwise.

Prejudice comes from the concept of slavery, and is particularly so when one race enslaves another. The general upbringing of an individual and misinformation can also lead to prejudice. Past experiences that may be inappropriate or bad also cause prejudice. Good experiences seldom lead to prejudice. Racial division “Racism” can be initiated by casting blame, segregation, deprivation, or exclusion can create hate.

Racism can be subtle or outrageous. Subtle racism is normally associated with employment practices, housing, and education, economic and political advancement and is accompanied by token acceptance. Outrageous racism is very pronounced through expressions, gatherings – both social and religious-work place job allocations and servitude to mention a few.

To prevent and “stop” racism

(1) We must accept the past.

(2) Recognize the wrong doings.

(3) Deliver Comprehensive education- To show that all individuals are the same and desire the respect of each other and change the thought process.

(4) Accept everyone for what he/she is.

(5) Stop generalizations-all races have the good and the bad.

(6) Teach morals- Respect, love, Tolerance etc.

(7) Do not prejudge-get to know individuals before passing judgments.

(8) Do not promote the behaviors of outrageous and extreme individuals with racist attitudes-denounce them. Denounce racism wherever it occurs. Individuals in the communication and political sectors should be reframed from racist comments, behaviors, and opinions and be rebuked for them.

CONCLUSION

All the world’s civilizations are becoming more multiracial, hence we should make every effort to control the spread of racism. Those civilizations that had multiracial populations for a long time should be scrutinized in an effort to denounce and prevent the spread of racism. A learning process can be initiated about the causes of racism as outlined in this article and the implementation of procedures to stop/prevent racism. The now global and fast communication media is a tool that can be used to denounce and apply pressure to those civilizations where outrageous racism occurs. This can lead to preventative steps, control measures, and punitive treatment for criminal and civil acts.

Subtle racism should be addressed early if recognized to prevent the situation from becoming outrageous and a short cultural “norm”. Divisive behavior among races should not be tolerated. Individuals in authoritative and influential positions should be cautious of their behavior, opinions, and treatment of individuals of a different race.