

## **Equipping pastors to deal with tribal, ethnic, & racial conflicts**

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### **1) The reality of tribal, ethnic, & racial conflicts?**

- The rise of the far right parties in Europe
- Anti-semitism
- Hate crimes
- The Kuklux Klan
- Tribal and racial stereotype
- Arab-Israeli conflict
- Rwandan genocide - 1994
- Mfecane wars

### **2) What causes tribal, ethnic, & racial conflicts?**

- ✓ **It is essentially a worldview issue**

*A worldview is the total set of assumptions that a person holds, either consciously or unconsciously, about the world and how it works.<sup>1</sup> Sometimes referred to as our “belief system” or “mindset,” we typically acquire our worldview in childhood and youth yet rarely examine the assumptions that comprise it later in life. (The Worldview of the Kingdom of God – Darrow L. Miller)*

Miller goes on to say: *“Your worldview is not simply a set of ideas floating through your head, with no bearing on the rest of your life. Rather, your worldview largely determines how you live, how you function within your family, the role you play in your community, and the type of society and nation you create with others. By examining your worldview, you can ensure that your life is built on a biblical foundation.”*

*“All human life, from the moment of conception to the last breath, has immeasurable value and dignity. God created humans in his image and he deeply loves each individual, whether male or female, rich or poor, and regardless of race, caste, creed, or disability. In every society where this truth penetrates, it initiates dramatic changes such as the abolition of slavery, improvement in the treatment and status of women and children, care for the unborn and the dying, and service to the poor, broken, and outcast.” (Miller)*

- ✓ **Spiritual deception**

These three beliefs—fatalism, racial superiority, and relativism—are rooted in lies. As with all lies, their consequences prove terrible and damaging. Behind all lies stands Satan, the father of lies himself.

Also, in all cultures of the world, Satan introduces counterfeit building blocks founded on lies. They are the immoral and profane features in any culture. For example, slavery in the United States was based on the lie that people with white skin are superior to those with black skin. The abuse and subjugation of women in many Latin cultures is based on the lie that men are superior to women. The caste system in India is based on the lie that people from one group are more valuable than another group.

*“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” —John 8:44.*

*Also Rev 12:9 and Rev 20:3*

✓ **Carnal Worldview - Worldliness Pride**

Jas 4:1 -10

**3) How can we deal with it? What resources are available?**

a. **Change of worldview - Renewing the mind - Romans 12:1-2**

b. **Reaffirm the truths about nations in Scripture, e.g. Act 17:26-31**

- **All human life is sacred.**

Human life is created, not evolved. God created each of us, and our lives belong to him. He holds each of our days in his hands.

- **All people and nations are of equal value.**

Because all people, regardless of gender or race, are created by God and made in his image, all stand before God equal in value and worth.

- **All people and nations are unique.**

While the biblical worldview holds that all people are of equal value, it doesn't mean they share the same personal characteristics. God created each person in a special way, and this uniqueness forms part of his image within us.

- **Humanity is fallen, broken, and sinful.** (*that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him..... The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent*) Acts 17: 27, 30

While the wonderful uniqueness of humanity is true, this does not paint the full picture. Men and women, in their natural, unredeemed condition, stand in rebellion against God.

**4) Why must we deal with it? What is at stake for the church?**

**The redemptive message of the gospel is at stake:** The Great Commission calls for the evangelization of all mankind because in God's sight, 'None is righteous, no, not one'. (Rom 3:10) (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; )

- *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - Joh 3:16*
- **Mat 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations....."*
- **Mar 16:15** *And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*
- **Luk 24:46** *and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.*
- **Act 1:8** *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*