

A large crowd of diverse people, seen from above, forms a prominent cross shape on a white background. The people are of various ages, ethnicities, and are wearing colorful clothing. The cross is composed of a vertical line and a horizontal line, with the intersection being the most densely packed area. Scattered around the cross are individual people, some standing and some walking, also seen from above. The overall image conveys a sense of unity and global diversity.

OVERCOMING THE EVIL OF RACISM WITH GOOD

Colin Dye

HOW CAN WE OVERCOME SUCH AN EVIL AS RACISM? NOT BY REVENGE.

Paul writes in Romans 12:19-21, *“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.’ No, ‘if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.’ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”*

In his speech “I Have a Dream”, delivered August 28, 1963, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. said that, *“those who hope [that African Americans] needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual.”*

We cannot return to business as usual, not even when we are a black majority church with over one hundred nationalities and ethnicities.

We are Pentecostals and Pentecost gives us an answer to racism. At Pentecost God gave His Spirit to all flesh to join all nations, to gather all separated from God together in Jesus. Amending the legislation and political campaigning for change are important, but ultimately, racism is a false belief system,



250,000 people joined the protest in Washington DC on 28 August 1963. Dr Martin Luther King Jr was one of the main speakers.

and it must be encountered with the truth that we have all been created equal as an image of God.

We can find a clear reference to this Bible-based equality in Dr Martin Luther King's speech, *"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character."*

It is neither the Roman or Greek law, nor a humanistic manifesto or Darwinism that brought this concept of radical equality, but the Bible. To God, we are all his image bearers. That is why racism is a sin against God.

Only the biblical understanding of equality can guarantee that human dignity and equality can be upheld in any part of society. George Floyd was not the first to die that way in the USA – and the restraining technique that killed him can also be used

legally in our country. Something must be done about that.

No one can see what happened to George Floyd and conclude that it was not evil. We must recognise that racism is evil and not make it historically relative. Moral relativism makes away with evil. What happened to George Floyd would have been wrong yesterday. It is wrong today, and it will be wrong tomorrow.

But if evil exists then good must exist also. CS Lewis wrote, *"A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line."*

We can tell that there is evil only because there is something good. And if evil exists, we can't overcome it with evil but only with good.

The Church must stand up with the full understanding of what it means to be equal and fully human and combat Darwinism that

**“PRAYER AGAINST RACISM FROM OUR HEART
WILL INEVITABLY LEAD US TO PEACEFUL
ACTIVISM IN ALL AREAS OF OUR SOCIETY.
COLIN DYE**

gives us all one subhuman ancestor and thus makes us all subhuman.

We must slay the giant of racism just as David overcame Goliath. This is a goal worth fighting for!

We need authentic assertiveness against racism. We must use all legitimate means in society to tackle it. We must help rebuild society based on biblical truth and the principles of the kingdom. These are love, justice, truth, acceptance and does not include revenge or violent action.

There are many things we can do after prayer, but we should do nothing before we pray! For no other weapon can bring down such a demonic doctrine as racism but prayer. But we must not just pray and stay at home, as prayer against racism from our heart will inevitably lead us to peaceful activism in all areas of our society.