

SERMON HANDOUT for April 30, 2023



Sermon Series: The Elephant In The Room  
“WHAT ABOUT THE COLOR OF MY SKIN? (RACE & RACISM)”

Galatians 3:28-29 NKJV

Dr. Joshua Beckley, Senior Pastor

**Quote for the Week**

**The true meaning of the Gospel is not what a person says about it,  
but how it changes his or her life.**

**PRE-INTRODUCTION**

**Motivation:** Jesus’ Mission Statement ([Church Mission statement as well!](#))

**Luke 4:16-22:** The Great Commission should be motivated by this Great Mission!

**2 Corinthians 3:4-6** “...for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. (NKJV)

**Intent:** That you would experience the life that God has for you.

- God wants you to know where He stands on issues.
- His intent is not to condemn but to warn.
- God gives you the knowledge to know what to choose and what not to choose.

**Mistake:** We assume that we should not incur the consequences God has clearly warned us about.

- What we sow we will also reap.
- The consequences are non-negotiable.

**Book of the Month** by Dr. Tony Evans

*Let’s Get to Know Each Other: What White And Black Christians Need To Know About Each Other!*

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 3:28-29 NKJV

- Jew nor Greek = \_\_\_\_\_
- Slave nor free = \_\_\_\_\_
- Male nor female = \_\_\_\_\_

**Jews referred to as Hebrews...**

- Hebrew is classified as Afro-asiatic; specific language being “Semitic.”
- Afro-asiatic is relating to or denoting a family of languages spoken in the Middle East and North Africa.

The family is commonly divided into five groups:

- **Semitic** - relating to the peoples who speak Semitic languages, especially Hebrew and Arabic.
- **Omotic** - The Omotic languages are a group of languages spoken in southwestern Ethiopia, in the Omo River region.
- **Berber** - members of any of various peoples living in northern Africa west of Tripoli. Berber is derived from a varied form of the Latin word for barbarian. The Romans first referred to them in this way.
- **Cushitic** - is spoken primarily in the Horn of Africa, with minorities speaking Cushitic languages to the north in Egypt and the Sudan, and to the south in Kenya and Tanzania.
- **Chadic** - The Chadic languages, 150 languages spoken across northern Nigeria, southern Niger, southern Chad, the Central African Republic, and northern Cameroon. Ancient Egypt was also a member of this family — All of which are of African descent originating on the Continent of African.

**Culture** - Pastor Beckley is referring to our American Culture in general.

**Particular Culture** - Pastor Beckley qualifies it by using its identifying name.  
(e.g., African American Culture, White Culture, Hispanic Culture, etc.)

## INTRODUCTION

*“Racism is much more than harboring prejudice toward another people group; it is when prejudice is enforced with power.”*

### MYTH

- ⊗ Damaging and devastating.
- ⊗ Perpetuated throughout American history.
- ⊗ Still has influence in our culture today.
- ⊗ Supposed spiritual inferiority of black people to white people.
- ⊗ Root of the systemic racism in our social systems in this country.

The acceptance of this **“MYTH”** has had catastrophic consequences:

- ⊗ The psyche of black people.
- ⊗ The worldview of white people.
- ⊗ The harmony among the races.
- ⊗ Worst of all, hindered the church from being salt and light to the World, especially in America.

This **MYTH** has kept the white church from appreciating the massive contributions of black churches to the true understanding of biblical Christianity and from incorporating those contributions in its own church life and doctrine.

Contributions that even those in the black church are not fully aware of, have kept the black community from fully appreciating its own heritage and using it as a foundation to address the cataclysmic crisis that now faces the African American community.

**1) MYTHS HAVE UNBELIEVABLE POWER IF LEFT UNCHECKED!**

- a) **Myths** are traditions passed down over time in story form as a means of explaining or justifying events that are lacking in either scientific evidence or historical fact.
- b) **Myths** often have strong religious tenets associated with them (Greek Pantheon for example).
- c) **Myths** are powerful because they are believed and therefore become the basis of our actions.

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**2) SO HOW WAS THIS MYTH CREATED?**

- a) The American myth of the inferior nature of African people began when the European slave traders subjugated Africans and exported them to the New World without having any understanding about this previously unknown people.

\*Book: *The Black Church in the United States* by Dr. Williams Banks

The slave trade was extensive and profitable.

Over 12.7 million slaves brought to American, between the 1700's – 1800's.  
2 million died along the way.

Many Christians presumed that paganism was inherently part of the African's religion. Many Christians looked to the Bible, the sourcebook of the Christian religion, to authenticate the slave industry.

This set the stage for the infamous "Curse of Ham" doctrine.

- b) **The Curse of Ham** (erroneously taken from Genesis 9:18-27)
- c) **Sacralization** - the development of theological and religious beliefs to serve the interest of a particular ethnic or racial group.

The Old Scofield Reference Bible - endorsed the Curse of Ham theory

- d) **Biblical refute for sacralization:** Exo. 20:5; Deut. 24:16; Eze. 18; Josh.5:1-2;12: 7:9; 9:1; 1Kings 9:20-21; Exo. 20:6; Eph.6:5-8; Col. 3:22; James 2:9-13.

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