

2 Nephi 5:21 "And he had caused the cursing to come upon them, yea, even a sore cursing, because of their iniquity. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them." (Book of Mormon, 2 Nephi 5:21)

We can disagree with the Mormon prophets of old for making racial statements in the name of God but we really cannot blame them because they were teaching what the LDS scriptures proclaim to be the truth. The real question is this, why would any human being, especially anyone with dark skin, ever want to be a part of a religion where racism is promoted in that religion's scriptures.

REASON #3 - Most importantly, the racism of Mormonism cannot be ignored or erased because the God of Mormonism, who inspired Joseph Smith to write the Book of Mormon, was/is a racist.

Once again, those who would defend the honor of the LDS Church in regard to racism have a problem because the root of the problem is not the racism taught by LDS Prophets, nor is the problem the fact that racism is promoted in LDS scriptures. The root of the problem is that Joseph Smith claimed that every word in the Book of Mormon was inspired by God and that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book ever written. If Joseph Smith was being truthful, the root of racism in Mormonism is their God. According to LDS scriptures, it was God who decided that black skin was going to be a curse and used the mark of black skin to differentiate the righteous from the unrighteous. It was also God that claimed that white skin was exceedingly fair and delightsome and that black skin was loathsome and a curse.

Again, I want to ask the question, why any human being, especially one with dark skin, would ever want to be a part of a religion where racism is promoted by that religion's prophets, scriptures, & God. I don't know about you but I choose a God who is not racist, I choose the God of Christianity. I don't want a God that invented a class system for human beings based upon skin color. I want a God that blesses ALL who will place their trust in Him and love their neighbors as themselves. And, I want a God who will judge those who are evil and wicked, those who do not love Him and do not treat others with equal respect and honor.

God and Racism

I am a person who is totally colorblind when it comes to race. Yes, I do notice that human beings have a variety of skin colors but this observation does not cause me to feel racist in any way – in fact, I appreciate the diversity within the human race. I see great diversity in all of creation because we have a Creator God who happens to be very imaginative. It is abhorrent for me to even consider the idea that God might be a racist. The God of the Bible is not racist nor did He create humans with various degrees of lighter or darker skin to denote their level of righteousness. There are no comments in God's Word, the Bible, which would indicate that light skin is a blessing or a symbol of righteousness. Nor are there any comments in the Bible to indicate that darker skin is a curse which resulted from the rebellious actions of individuals (not in this life or in any 'pre-earth' life). I can confidently state that the God of the Bible is also COLORBLIND. He loves all the people of this whole world - red, yellow, black and white - exactly the same. He came to this earth in the person of Jesus Christ to die for the sins of the whole world - for the sins of white and black alike. My Bible says "there is none righteous no not one" (*Romans 3:10*), this means that we are all in the exact same spiritual condition - white and black alike are all sinners in need of a Savior. He offers the exact same salvation to all without prejudice – "whosoever will, may come" (*Rom 10:9-13*). We serve an awesome God of love and His great love has been extended to the entire human race on an equal basis.

I am also a Christian who loves and has a deep concern for LDS people. I have many good things to say about Mormon people. They are a nice, hardworking, friendly, and kind people who would give you the shirt off their back if you had a need. I don't believe that most Mormon people today would encourage racism. I have LDS friends who have adopted children of various nationalities with dark skin and these individuals love their adopted children like their own. But, this does not mean that the Mormon religion itself is not racist (and that concerns me) – The LDS Church always has been and still is a racist religion with a God that is a racist. Let me explain...

In recent years, the LDS church has made huge concessions and great strides to eradicate the racist religious rules of their past. Until 1978 people with dark skin were not allowed to be ordained into the Mormon priesthood, nor were people with dark skin allowed to enter the Mormon temples. Thankfully, these racist rules have been rescinded and today

Questions? Comments? GospelTruth4U@Hotmail.com

blacks have an equal standing in the LDS Church. This, however, does not eliminate the ever present racism contained within Mormonism. Racism can never be completely erased from Mormonism for three reasons...

REASON #1 - Racism cannot be eliminated from Mormonism because there is no way to erase the fact that LDS Prophets and Apostles from the past (men who claimed to be Prophets, Seers and Revelators for God) were racist.

The fact that Mormon Prophets were racist can clearly be seen in their writings prior to 1978, (when the Mormon Church lifted its ban which kept blacks from holding the LDS priesthood). From the very beginning of the LDS Church, men who claimed to be Living Prophets [spokespersons] for God were racist. It is important to note that they were not racist in conflict with the LDS scriptures or the God of Mormonism; they were racist because of the LDS scriptures and the God of Mormonism.

The founding prophet of Mormonism was racist - Joseph Smith said, "Had I anything to do with the Negro, I would confine them by strict law to their own species, and put them on a national equalization" (History of the Church, Vol. 5, pp. 217-218). The fact that there happen to be a few examples in early LDS history where Joseph was kind to some black people does not change the fact that he was racist in his thinking – some (not many) slave owners were kind to their slaves too – I think Joseph Smith would have promoted kindness to slaves.

Brigham Young followed in Joseph's footsteps by making racist comments like, "You see some classes of the human family that are black, uncouth, uncomely, disagreeable and low in their habits, wild, and seemingly deprived of nearly all the blessings of the intelligence that is generally bestowed upon mankind. The first man that committed the odious crime of killing one of his brethren will be cursed the longest of any one of the children of Adam. Cain slew his brother. Cain might have been killed, and that would have put a termination to that line of human beings. This was not to be, and the Lord put a mark upon him, which is the flat nose and black skin." (Journal of Discourses, 26 vol. 7, p.291 Remarks by President Brigham Young, delivered in the Tabernacle, Great Salt Lake City, October 9, 1859. Reported by G. D. Watt.)

This type of racism continued throughout LDS history and even into the mid 1900's LDS Prophets were still making outrageous racial comments. The 10th LDS President and Prophet, Joseph Fielding Smith, in his book 'The Way to Perfection' stated, "Not only was Cain called upon to suffer,

but because of wickedness he became the father of an inferior race. A curse was placed upon him and that curse has been continued through his lineage and must do so while time endures. Millions of souls have come into this world cursed with a black skin and have been denied the privilege of Priesthood and the fullness of the blessings of the Gospel." (pg. 101, 1931.)

These facts are undeniable which cause problems for those who would attempt to defend the honor of the LDS Church. Their only recourse is to point out the fact that many "Christians" have also been racist. Regrettably this is true and, as a Christian, I am shocked that any person who would name the name of Jesus could consider a person in the human family as inferior due to the color of their skin. There is, however, a big difference between professing "Christians" who were racist in complete contradiction to God and the teachings of the Bible, and Mormon Prophets who were racist in perfect agreement with the scriptures of the LDS Church and the God of Mormonism.

REASON #2 – Racism can not be eliminated from Mormonism because it cannot erase the fact that racism is, even today, promoted in the Mormon scriptures.

I would challenge anyone to show me from the Bible that racism was ordained by God. The God of the Bible is not a racist and the Prophets of the Bible did not promote racism. There are numerous examples from the Bible where God's Prophets associated with, married, and worked side-by-side with people of all nationalities. When the Israelites were freed from their slavery in Egypt a "mixed multitude" of foreigners left with them (the mixed multitude certainly contained African slaves as well), Moses married an Ethiopian (dark skinned) woman, Solomon welcomed the Queen of Sheba (an African queen) and honored her when she visited him, the Apostle Paul said that there is no distinction between Jew or Gentile, Slave or Free (which would include all nationalities), Male or Female, but that we are all one in Christ.

The Mormon Prophets who promoted racism did so because the LDS scriptures promote racism, consider the racist statements found in LDS scriptures today.

Moses 7:8 "For behold, the Lord shall curse the land... and there was a blackness came upon all the children of Canaan, that they were despised among all people." (Pearl of Great Price, Moses 7:8 [note: NOT to be confused with the books written by Moses in the Holy Bible])