

So, God created humankind...

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If human beings only read the first chapter of the Bible, I wonder how that might change society. Lamentably, it seems that we prefer to fill our heads with self-serving lies on the internet rather than steep ourselves in the Truth. Last weekend from New York to California our nation experienced deplorable racially motivated mass shootings. A white supremacist stormed into a Black neighborhood supermarket and killed 10 African Americans. A Chinese man ruined a celebratory church luncheon on Presbyterian grounds and killed a Taiwanese man, who was only there that Sunday to take his mother to church. Both shooters injured others as well.

What kind of people have we become that we can no longer shop for food or break bread together safely, especially depending on the color of our skin? This behavior is not only unacceptable in a civil society, but it is also utterly disobedient to our Creator. I don't have to tell you that it is wrong and disobedient to murder. As people of faith, we must go further than pat ourselves on the back for not having killed and promote a key truth that Scripture offers us. Remember, the Bible helps us make sense of who God is in our lives, and consequentially, who God calls us to become.

Genesis 1:27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them... (v.31b) God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

Genesis reminds us that we come into this world as equals, created in the image of God, as good, and nothing we do can make us better or worse in nature than any other person God created. Racism takes this truth and distorts it. To be racist is to act as if God created you better and more worthy than someone who doesn't look like you. It is a sin.

Every day we have the chance to live as people who love and serve one another, full stop. As we grapple with the difficult reality that some people come into this world under much more challenging circumstances than our own, let us remember the blessing with which we are birthed and the call to action to help others realize this blessing and goodness in their own lives too. Let us live as a people who believe that God moves through us to promote change and uses our voices and gifts to bring hope to the oppressed and alleviate suffering where we can. Join us for worship this Sunday, in person or virtually, as we praise God and listen to stories of hope from Thomas Keown, the Founder of Many Hopes (<https://manyhopes.org>). I look forward to seeing you there!