

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your correspondence to the Al Denson Show and for tuning in every week to our program. My prayer for you is to be encouraged in your daily walk with Christ through the words of this booklet. Our hope is that in turn you will tell others of what God is doing through our ministry to youth and parents on TV. I am convinced you will not find another program on any network anywhere that deals with issues today's youth and their parents are facing, and provides answers from a Godly perspective.

In addition, we would love for you to help us by going to our web site at www.aldenson.com. Here you can write to us, order additional material like this booklet, check out all my music, have a daily bible study, and stay up to date on the ministry. You can also send us a prayer request and questions for the TV show. But more importantly, please continue to be in prayer with us as we work together to help those that are in need.

Thanks for watching and God Bless!

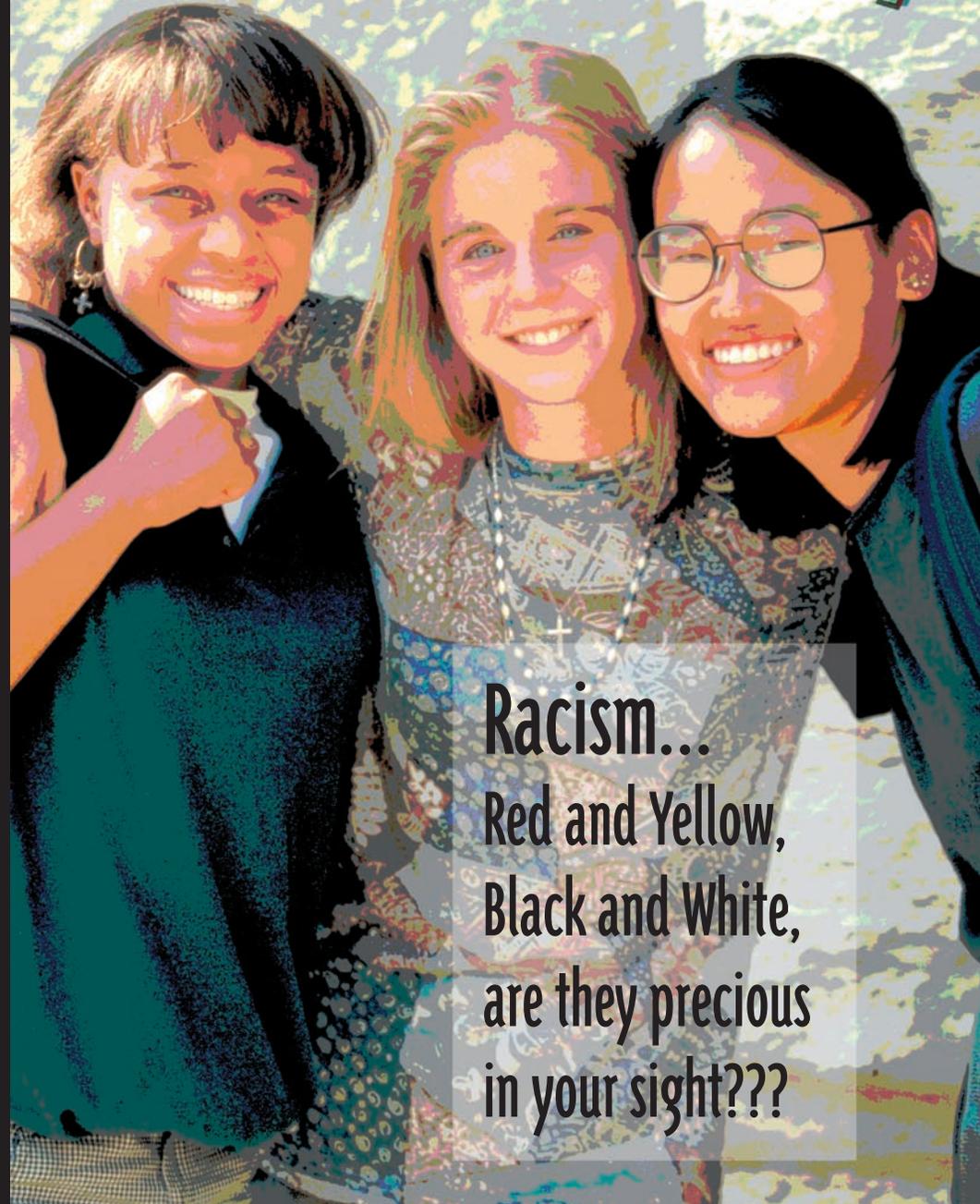
Sincerely,



An Outreach of Celebration Ministries

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All in the Family



Racism...
Red and Yellow,
Black and White,
are they precious
in your sight???



Most artists create for only a brief moment in time. That phenomenon was once known as “15 minutes of fame”. Yet even in a fickle world, there still emerge a talented few that transcends time and trends. With nearly 15 years as a major label recording artist and seven hit

albums to his credit, Al Denson is that kind of artist.

But the attention and acclaim his artistry has brought him over the years are anything but the routine rewards of worldly success. Rather, they are the fruits of a life of purpose and passion, and a mission that has always reached far beyond merely making music.

The millions of young people Al has performed for, befriended, counseled, consoled and clowned around with in his career already know that. And thousands more are finding out every day.

This past year has seen Al expand his efforts to a global audience through the reach of his daily syndicated television production, “The Al Denson Show.” “You’ve got to reach out to people where they are with the most powerful means and this form of media allows you to build trust and a rapport,” says Al. “This has all been so amazing. I can’t imagine what lies in store when the Lord finally calls me home, but I don’t have to wait for heaven to receive rewards. I get them every time a kid comes up to me and says, ‘I heard what you said, and I accepted Christ.’ You can’t ask for anything more or better than that.”

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All in the Family

There is probably not a thinking person anywhere who wouldn’t agree that some of the greatest pain mankind has had and continues to experience has been caused by racism and prejudice. What is prejudice? The word “prejudice” comes from the root of two words, “pre-judgement.” It means that before the facts are fully considered, we have made up our minds. Prejudice is a great time saver for people who are too lazy or too fearful to explore the facts. Facts are immaterial because prejudice means you have made up your mind regardless of the truth.

Racism will always be alive and well where there is the “us” against “them” mentality. Whether it is whites versus blacks, Hispanics versus Asians, Jews versus Palestinians, or Protestants versus Catholics, one group must be suppressed by another for racism to survive. We live in a world gripped by the “us” versus “them” mentality. But racism cannot survive in the light of the Word of God because racism and the Gospel of Christ cannot co-exist.

At first reading it may not be apparent, but racism is dealt with by the apostle Paul in Romans 5: 12-19. He says, “When Adam sinned, sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and to die, for all sinned. We know that it was

Racism...Red and Yellow, Black and White, are they precious in your sight???

Adam’s sin that caused this because although, of course, people were sinning from the time of Adam until Moses, God did not in those days judge them guilty of death for breaking His laws — because He had not yet given His laws to them, nor told them what He wanted them to do. So when their bodies died it was not for their own sins since they themselves

had never disobeyed God’s special law against eating forbidden fruit, as Adam had.

What a contrast between Adam and Christ who was yet to come! And what a difference between man’s sin and God’s forgiveness! For this one man, Adam, brought death to many through his sin. But this one man Jesus Christ, brought forgiveness to many through God’s mercy.

Adam’s one sin brought the

penalty of death to many, while Christ freely takes away many sins and gives glorious life instead. The sin of this one man, Adam, causes death to be king over all, but all who will take God’s gift of forgiveness and acquittal are kings of life because of this one man, Jesus Christ. Yes, Adam’s sin brought punishment to all, but Christ’s righteousness makes men right with God, so that they can live. Adam caused many to be sinners because he disobeyed God, and Christ caused many to be made acceptable to God because He obeyed.”

Prejudice is a great time saver for people who are too lazy or too fearful to explore the facts.

These passages teach us that we are all joined to the family of Adam by birth, and that we can be joined to the family of Christ through the new birth. Pastor Larry Thompson shows us that the Bible says that we are all alike in Adam in three ways:

1. We Have the Same Family (verse 12).

Sin entered the world through one man, Adam. We all have the same parents. Every person, without exception, of every race who has ever lived is a child of Adam and Eve. Remember, God made Adam the representative of the human race. From Adam, God made Eve. Through Adam and Eve, all of us were made. We are all of the same stuff as Adam. Every human being is made, like Adam, in the image and likeness of God. Paul says in Acts 17:26, "He created all the people of the world from one man, Adam, and scattered the nations across the face of the earth."

In a family there is no "us" versus "them," it is simply "we." So in Adam there can be no "us" versus "them." We are all sons and

daughters of Adam. Yet if that is true, then why is it we can't seem to eradicate racism in our nation? Even though the Civil Rights demonstrations in this country during the 1950s and 1960s were difficult, at least there was a feeling of hope as all of the ugliness was being brought out in the light, that something was being done. It was bad, but we felt it would get better. We have seen dramatic improvements in the area of equality, but the problems of racism still exist and they will never be solved by legislation or laws. Racism is a sin and the only thing that will take care of sin is God's love.

If we all come from the same family with Adam and Eve as our parents, then that makes us all brothers and sisters. If we are all brothers and sisters then why do we treat others who are different with fear, suspension and rejection? The answer is simple: Racism is a caught sin that is taught by others! Children are not born with a racist spirit. They are born with a sinful spirit and as soon as the sinful spirit hears about the sin of racism, then the sin reaches out and grabs the individual and places them in bondage.

In the movie South Pacific there is a famous song called You've Got To Be Careful Tonight.

"You've got to be carefully taught to hate and fear,
You've got to be carefully taught from year to year.
It's got to be drummed in your dear little ear,
You've got to be carefully taught, You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be carefully taught to be afraid,
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade.
You've got to be carefully taught, You've got to be carefully taught.
You've got to be carefully taught before it's too late.
Be taught before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate.
You've got to be carefully taught, You've got to be carefully taught."

Racism makes no sense because we all have the same family. We are all alike in Adam.

2. We Have the Same Failure (verses 13-14). The Bible says that the evidence that sin entered the world is that death entered the world. And just as sin was passed on to the whole human race, so death spread to all human-kind. When speaking about life and death and sin and righteousness, the Scriptures do not speak of us as individuals, but as a family. All of us are united in Adam and participate in both Adam's sin and its condemnation. Even before the law was given, death was present. As a result of sin, death passed throughout all humanity. There is no "us" versus "them." All people sin and, as a consequence, all perish.

Every human being is made, like Adam, in the image and likeness of God.



Did you know that there are Christians who are foolish enough to believe that the Bible teaches racism? The two most ridiculous theories are:

A. The Curse of Cain is where black people came from. This is referring to Cain, the son of Adam and Eve who murdered his brother Abel. In Genesis 4:15 it says, "But the LORD said to him, 'Not so; if anyone kills Cain, he will suffer vengeance seven times over.' Then the LORD put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him." First of all the Bible does not call it a curse but a sign. Cain begged God for a sign that would keep others from killing him because of what he had done to Abel.

B. The Curse of Ham is where other races came from. This has its origin in Genesis 9 and stems from when Noah got drunk and took his clothes off and his son Ham ridiculed him. Noah did not curse Ham, but his son Canaan. Noah said that Canaan would be a servant to others. Noah was drunk when he said this. Some say, "Well, this is where the Canaanite came from and they served Israel when the Jews entered the land." That is possible, but it has nothing to do with racism.

3. We Have the Same Future (verses 18-19). Because Adam violated God's command, all Adam's descendants were condemned. This confirms the fact that God deals with us either "in Adam" or "in Christ." So, where then did racism originate? The answer is from Satan. Racism is the sin of pride. We are ALL

different shapes, sizes and colors but all from the same family. God warned us not to judge from the outer appearance but from the heart. The entire New Testament affirms that God shows grace to us without regard to our race, ethnicity, or cultural status. God is not a respecter of persons. Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Adam's sin brought condemnation, but the gift of God's grace through Christ brought justification. Those who are still in Adam remain under God's judgment for their sins, but those who are in Christ are justified. They are declared to be righteous because the righteousness of Christ is applied to their account. All who are in Christ for salvation are justified. We receive His righteousness in place of our unrighteousness and are set free from condemnation.

All who are in Adam die. Every human being is made of the same stuff and must suffer the same condemnation because of sin. But because of God's grace, all who are in Christ shall live for eternity. The only "us" versus "them" distinction the Gospel will allow is the distinction between the lost and the saved. And because God's love and grace have been poured out in Christ, the "we" who are saved want the "them" who are lost to be part of "us." Where racism divides, the Gospel unites. Where racism brings hate, the Gospel brings love.

What can we do as the Body of Christ to stop racism? What can you do as a Christian to stop racism? Legislation, law enforcement, demonstrations and equal rights are not the answer. The only thing that will destroy racism is the love of God through Jesus Christ. When hearts are changed on the inside, there will be a change in how we accept and treat others who are different on the outside. How can we put this in practice? In other words, how do we as Christians live in such a way to overcome racism?

If we are serious about treating others who are different than we are the way Jesus would treat them, our lives will have to be characterized by compassion, love, tenderness, kindness, gentleness, understanding, forgiveness, giving, and caring. Our world is full of people who know nothing of these characteristics. They are hardhearted, going places and getting things done in the fast lane, with little or no tolerance for those who aren't of their same race, religion, economic or social status.

As Bill Hybels puts it, "They have goals to achieve, quotas to meet, and deals to cut. They view people only in relation to themselves and their own projects and aspirations; tools to be used or trouble to be avoided." People like this are rude, mean-spirited, impatient, selfish and insensitive. They believe themselves to be the winners of this world with no time for those they consider to be different, ordinary, or losers.

But Christians are to be different. We are to hold to a higher, more noble standard of living than does the rest of the world. We should understand that real fulfillment in life comes from giving not taking, and should be investing our lives in something larger than ourselves, which is the cause of Christ. We must realize that the most important things in this life are people and relationships, and that without them life is empty, success means nothing, and money is worthless.

We are ALL different shapes, sizes and colors but all from the same family.

Christ-like people understand that their rights only extend to...

In the book *A Call To Character* it says, "The challenge to live harmoniously in a complex world means that we have to learn to care for others we do not know and are not likely to know on a personal level. These people may live in the same city we live in and share our culture. They may live in places we know nothing of or be quite different culturally. However, we all share a common humanity, and learning to internalize that deeper sense of connectedness is an increasingly demanding call. Our own democracy, international peace, and the well-being of the Earth itself depend on it."

The most important part of representing Christ is learning how to accept and treat other people. It is one thing to care about our friends and families, or even to care about people we may not know as well, but who are like us. Only Jesus can give you the power to care about the problems of strangers or those who are different.

Dr. John Maxwell says, "An assumption is an opinion that something is true. My assumptions about people largely determine how I treat them. Why? What I assume about people is what I look for. What I look for is what I find. What I find influences my response to them." Do you see? Negative assumptions about others will lead to negative treatment of them.

Know how you feel when you are really hungry? You probably get cranky and out-of-sorts. If you go too long without getting the food you need, you may even begin to

experience some unpleasant physical symptoms. Perhaps a headache or dizziness or even fainting. Real hunger makes it hard to function normally.

Well, every person in this world is hungry for something, whether it is acceptance, approval, recognition, understanding, companionship, or love. If we are serious about becoming the eyes, ears, hands, feet, and heart of God here on this earth then we will take their "hunger pangs" into consideration and give them the benefit of the doubt. Assuming the best about people is a choice. Keep your assumptions in check and you will have the motivation you need to reach out and care for people whether they are next door to you, or on the other side of the world.

Being this kind of Christian will enable you to give three things to others that we all desperately need:

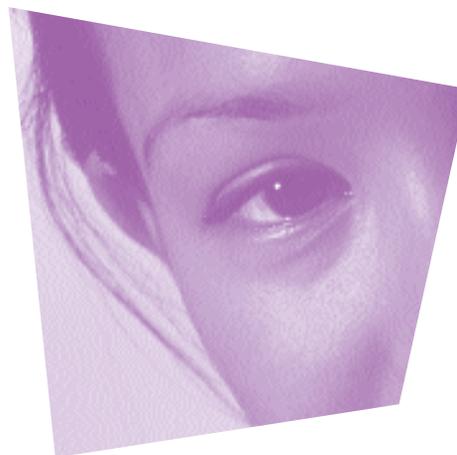
1. HONOR

In ancient writings, something of honor was something heavy, valuable, even priceless. Homer, the Greek scholar said, "The greater the cost of the gift, the more the honor." In other words, the way something was treated, either with honor or dishonor, was determined by the value placed on it. It is like the difference in the way we handle a fine piece of crystal or china, compared to a paper plate.

Dr. Gary Smalley says that at the heart of making others feel valuable, loved, and accepted is a decision to honor them. Honor simply means deciding to place high value, worth, and importance on another person by viewing him

or her as someone priceless and valuable. Honor is a gift that we give to others. It isn't purchased by their actions and isn't dependent on how we feel at the moment.

How you treat others is an indication of how valuable and important you believe them to be. The lower value we attach to people, the easier we can "justify" dishonoring them with our words or actions. We can also dishonor others when we treat them (knowingly or unknowingly) as if they have little worth or value. When you are angry, critical, show favoritism, prejudice, or indifference to people you are devaluing them.



the place where another person's rights begin.

Each person in this world is a special and unique individual who is worthy of respect. Giving honor means that you value the likes, dislikes, feelings, opinions, and the rights of others. Honor also means that we recognize the boundary lines that each person has drawn in their life, and that we never try to cross those lines. Christ-like people understand that their rights only extend to the place where another person's rights begin.

2. HOPE

Being a Christian should give us the ability to see beyond present troubles and keep hope alive in times of trouble. Because our attitudes should be those of Christ, we should have a different perspective that will often allow us to see more in others than most people can see, and enable us to recognize opportunities that most do not. There is an epidemic of hopelessness raging today, unparalleled by any other time in history. People the world over are desperate for hope. They are looking for those who can not only help them find it, but show them how to hold on to it.

Compassion, love, tenderness, kindness, gentleness, understanding, forgiveness, giving, and caring are the qualities that make up the nature of Christ and are what can give hope to the hopeless. Christians need to realize that we are in effect creators. We are responsible for the kind of world we create around ourselves and others in our daily lives. We can either choose to create beauty and hope, or ugliness and despair in this world.

Recall for a moment the most beautiful place you have ever seen. Doesn't it make you feel good and hopeful just to think about it? Now recall for another moment the ugliest, dirtiest place you have ever seen. If you dwell on that picture for long you will begin to feel depressed and hopeless. We have the same power with our words, actions and attitudes to help create and shape the emotional landscape around us and others. Remember, Christ is our hope and the only hope for this sin-sick, prejudice world. Where Jesus is, there is hope.

Being a Christian who actually resembles Christ will also welcome us to the community of people who are actually able to make a difference in their world. This will make you a part of that most elite group. Becoming Christ's representative on this earth by loving and accepting those who are different will identify you with all the great champions of courage and faith who have come before you, and all those who will carry on after you are gone. This will give you roots to the past, and a presence in the future.

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide
Why build the bridge at eventide?"
The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path I have come,"
he said,
"There follows after me today A youth,
whose feet must pass this way; This chasm,
that has been naught to me, To that fair-
haired youth may a pitfall be. He, too,
must cross in the twilight dim; Good friend,
I am building the bridge for him."

— Will Allen Dromgoole

You may be at a crossroads in your Christian life. Jesus is calling you to take a stand, to live differently, to accept and treat others that are different as He would treat them. You can walk down the road called INDIFFERENCE and travel with the majority of the world, or you can follow in the footsteps of Jesus. No one can make this decision for you. It is a choice and the choice is up to you. Which road will it be? Though many would like to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, few have the courage to do so. Will you choose to walk with Him, even if you walk alone?

We are responsible
for the kind
of world we
create around
ourselves and
others in our
daily lives.