



A Five-Dollar Word

I recently attended the MLK50 (Martin Luther King Anniversary) in Memphis, Tennessee. I did not agree with Martin Luther King on many issues of morality and theology, but I agree that racism in any form or fashion, from any source or in any situation, is a sin.

Racism sets up a terrible dichotomy. "Dichotomy" means literally to cut (temnein - in Greek) into two (dicha) parts. Racism "cuts" the human race into groups of human beings whom they say are not equal. At this point of wrong thinking and theology, the words "superior" and "inferior" enter into the conversation. The Bible says that every human being is made in the image of God. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27 KJV). "This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God

created man, in the likeness of God made he him" (Genesis 5:1 KJV). Every human being has eternal value. There is no dichotomy in creation.

Some believe we lost the image of God in the fall of Adam and Eve. The Noahic Covenant is found in Genesis 9. This covenant is long after the Edenic and Adamic Covenants. And yet, Genesis 9:6 KJV says a murderer forfeits his own life because the human being he killed has the image of God. "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." There should be no dichotomy in criminal justice or any other area of social or spiritual standing.

There is no dichotomy in

the Great Commission. The one imperative in the Greek is to make disciples of all human beings — not some, but all; not many, but every. Paul said the "eklesia" should not be a dichotomy of Jew and Gentile, but one body in Christ — this is the great mystery Paul preached on his missionary journeys and at the Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15).

Jesus died on the cross for every human being (unlimited atonement). He died on the cross for both thieves. Jesus "tasted death for every man," (check the Greek — very, very problematic for a view of limited atonement). "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory

and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9 KJV).

There is no dichotomy in Creation, the Commission, the Church, or at Calvary. There should be no RACIAL DICHOTOMY. Here is the irony of ironies. The speakers at MLK50 encouraged all of us to eliminate any RACIAL DICHOTOMY in our society and in His Kingdom — and we should. But some of those same speakers advocate a SPIRITUAL DICHOTOMY that is even more damaging to the Kingdom. There is no dichotomy in the Atonement. Jesus died for both thieves and would have saved both thieves. What everyone lost in the first Adam, everyone regains in the second Adam

(Romans 5:15-21).

Why replace a sinful dichotomy with a worse dichotomy. A holy God has nothing to do with either one. Many among us profess (accurately or ignorantly) a theology that sets up a terrible dichotomy. Maybe my IQ is lower than theirs; maybe I'm not smart enough to understand, but I still believe John 3:16, and "world" does not mean rocks, trees, and rivers; it means souls. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV).

This word — DICHOTOMY — will cost us much more than \$5.

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BIBL i O C I P H E R

V XBO MOAXB VP XBO SGNBOY LVXB

VP XBO KGYMVZ RCM DCVKEOMQO VP

QVM! BVK WCYORSNBRLEO RSO BGY

FWMQZOCKY, RCM BGY, KRTY ARYX

PGCMGCQ VWX!

SVZRCY OEOUOC: XBGSXT-XBSOO

Clue: W = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 8:9

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