

Racism: Condemnation of
Assembly 1991

Racism is the sin that perceives one race to be inherently inferior/superior to other races, thereby devaluing persons in terms of their dignity and their contribution to society.

Racism arises out of the human response to differences which exist in language, culture, race, and religion. Racism and prejudice (which is an irrational attitude of hostility directed against individuals of a race) feed on each other.

Central issues that give raise to racial prejudice include: (a) a fear of those who are different from us; (b) insecurity in the area of employment and advancement; (c) the general fear of losing control; (d) the fear of assimilation, i.e., losing our language and/or culture. These fears engender racist attitudes and actions that violate our belief that all people are created in the image of God. Rather than being controlled by fear, Christians must seek to be motivated by Christ's example of unconditional love.

In response to Christ's command to love our neighbour as ourselves, we affirm:

1. That God is the Creator of all people;
2. That in Him human distinctions are affirmed and respected;
3. That, as Christians, we need to be peacemakers and agents of reconciliation.

We, therefore, propose the following:

1. That we, the delegates of the 145th Assembly of the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces, with repentance for our sinful participation in racism, knowingly and unknowingly, by action and by silence, condemn all forms of racism and discrimination that accompanies racism;
2. That we deliberately choose to practice Christ's love to people who are different from ourselves;
3. That we, by example, teach our children respect for all people;
4. That we seek opportunities to build bridges of common concerns and interests with people of other races, cultures, language groups who do not share our same race, origin or language;
5. That we, as individual Christians and local churches, seek avenues of contact with other Christian churches or groups who do not share our same race, origin or language;
6. That we commit ourselves to pray for an end to racism in our communities and world.