Creation Breakfast Club Sunday Online Lesson for July 19th, 2020
Racism & Imago Dei

Before we start our lesson today, I want to share this devotion and song with you. Our kids in SoCal go to a huge mega-church down there called Mariners and they are actively involved with a ministry called Safe Families, which serves to help people in the churches to get involved with the foster care system there in Orange County. Because of their interest, this article in the Seattle Times a few years back caught my attention and I saved it. It seems applicable to our lesson today. Have a box of Kleenex handy. To access the article online, go to:


Here is the performance alluded to in the previous article.

10-Year-Old Blind Autistic Boy Sings Open the Eyes of my Heart
https://youtu.be/0kC-ACTiKfI

So this past month, we have looked at the scientific reality on the concept of race, plus the Biblical context for it as well. This Sunday Online we want to look at what it means that “man was created in the Image of God” (Genesis 1:27) or in the Latin, the term is "Imago Dei" and how that relates to what is going on in America today in terms of a Biblical solution.

For an overview of this concept of the “Imago Dei”, let’s first go to this short video clip:

Imago Dei: The Image of God
https://youtu.be/r-rzM5EojJY  (4:36 minutes)

To take it one step further, check out this short video clip:

Why Racism is an Imago Dei Issue:
https://youtu.be/lIxAue0Q8ks  (1:48 minutes)
There are also historical implications as to how “Imago Dei” shaped not only American history but Western Civilization as a whole. Check out this short clip by the now deceased Chuck Colson, best selling author, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministry, and host of daily radio commentary Breakpoint:

Chuck Colson Two Minutes Warning – Imago Dei

https://youtu.be/8Z73uS5Kk2w  (4:09 minutes)

One of the nice things about finishing up my Navy Reserves career was that once a year I got to go to Washington DC for an annual meeting at Bethesda for all medical reserve personnel. Ruth would usually come with me, as well, and we would always plan a few extra days mapping out the various sites we wanted to see while in the area. But with every trip, you had to take in the National Mall in DC. My thesis is that you are never more patriotic than when you are walking on the National Mall at night. The long, grassy National Mall is home to iconic monuments that tell, for better or worse, our nation’s history. It is also flanked by the numerous Smithsonian museums that catalog our progression as well. If you have not been there for a while, there have been multiple additions completed in the last couple of decades including the WW2 Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the MLK Memorial (perhaps appropriately situated across the Tidal Basin from the Jefferson Memorial on the way to the Lincoln Memorial.) There is also a recent addition of the National Museum of African American History & Culture adjacent to the Washington Monument. As well, there is now the National Museum of the American Indian farther SE down the Mall toward the Capitol Building. The Museum of the Bible is just a short walk immediately south of there.

Ironically, as part of my Navy Reserves career, one would occasionally have to go to Millington, north of Memphis Tennessee to participate in Promotion Boards as well as APPLY Boards (which assigned NR billets across the country).

As such, they would always take you to Graceland, Beale Street, and for BBQ. But they also took you to the National Civil Rights Museum there in downtown Memphis, which, unbeknownst to me, was built on the site and incorporates the Lorraine Motel balcony, where MLK was assassinated back in 1968.
Dr. Martin Luther King was an African American Baptist minister and activist who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the civil rights movement in America from 1956 until his assassination in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. King is best known for advancing civil rights through nonviolence and civil disobedience, inspired by his Christian beliefs and the nonviolent activism of Mahatma Gandhi.

While there, I remember watching a video of the now famous, “I Have a Dream Speech” given at the base of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington in August of 1963. A gifted orator, he endeavors to hold America accountable to the language of Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence there, at the feet of Lincoln sitting in his chair, who led America through the war to abolish slavery here at a cost of over 600,000 lives. All for not resolving the slavery issue at the conception of our nation. Unfortunately, Lincoln was also assassinated thus eliminating him from the post war reunification of the country which led to many of the problems we still deal with today. Please listen to the speech in its entirety and note, like Lincoln’s 2nd inaugural address, the multiple Biblical references and his vision for America. Not exactly the message we are hearing in the streets at present.
The March on Washington and Dr. King's “Dream” speech would play an important role in helping pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the pivotal Selma to Montgomery march that he led in 1965 would provide momentum for the passage later that year of the Voting Rights Act.

Before we finish up, I want to take you back to the autistic, blind young man we opened with in our devotion. Now in his late teen years, he has his own ministry called Mission Possible. Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Possibility………the life of Christopher Duffley is an example of perseverance, by not allowing his blindness or autism stop him for living life to the fullest. He is now a speaker, podcaster and singer that shows his audience that nothing is impossible. Here he is, at age 15 still with perfect pitch, performing at a large evangelical mega-church in the Orlando, Florida area.
This is Amazing Grace-Christopher Duffley  Northland Church (2016)  
https://youtu.be/mXYTHbS3-RU  (4:49 minutes)

God Bless You!!

God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart. 
1 Samuel 16:7

Larry & Ruth