

ERROR: Miscegenation and the Bible

Many use the bible to justify their stance on some matters and end up in error. In the Kingdom, under the New Covenant, it's what's in the heart of the King that is right rather than what can be justified by scripture. Scripture needs the King's wisdom to interpret, rather than the power of the human mind. Although the scriptures contain the heart and mind of God, they are spiritually discerned because they were written to different peoples, under different covenants, and given in a cultural and historical context.

As an example, there are some who teach and enforce in their congregations that interracial marriage (miscegenation) is a sin. Here is a very brief study on the matter.

BACKGROUND ¹

Definition: ‘Miscegenation’ – The intermarrying of races or religions.

Forbidden by:

- Abraham – Genesis 24:3
- Jacob – Genesis 28:1
- Moses – Exodus 34:12-16; Deuteronomy 7:3, 4
- Joshua – Joshua 23:12

Reasons for prohibition:

- Exodus 34:16
- Deuteronomy 7:4
- Joshua 23:12, 13

Results of:

- Judges 3:6, 7

Instances of:

- Moses – Numbers 12:1
- Esau – Genesis 26:34, 35
- David –
- Israel – Numbers 25:1, 6-8; Judges 3:5-8

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## **ANALYSIS** <sup>2</sup>

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Is it a sin for a black man to marry a white woman?
- Is interracial marriage wrong?
- Does the bible say we should keep our races pure?
- Is it wrong to date a person of a different race?

1 - This section is a quote exactly from: **Nave's Topical Bible**  
[www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/Nave/ID/3419/Miscegenation.htm](http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Topical.show/RTD/Nave/ID/3419/Miscegenation.htm)

2 - This section is a quote completely from: **The Christian Bible Reference Site** ([www.christianbiblereference.org/faq\\_interracialMarriage.htm](http://www.christianbiblereference.org/faq_interracialMarriage.htm))

## The Bible

There is nothing in the Bible saying it is wrong to date or marry a person of a different race.

There are a few incidental mentions of race in the Bible (e.g., that Ethiopian's skin was different, Jeremiah 13:23), but there is nothing saying one race is superior to another. Moses was married to a Cushite (Ethiopian) woman (Numbers 12:1-16), and God was angry with Aaron and Miriam for criticizing that marriage.

The Hebrews were forbidden to marry Canaanites and other pagan peoples (Exodus 34:11-16; Deuteronomy 7:1-3). The reason was because those people worshipped idols, not because of race; the Hebrews, Amorites, Canaanites, etc. were racially similar.

The apostle Paul encouraged Christians not to marry unbelievers (2 Corinthians 6:14), but here again, the reason was religious, not racial.

Jesus and His apostles taught that we must respect and show compassion for all people of God's creation without regard to artificial distinctions like race and nationality. In His Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus told of a Samaritan man who was kind to a Jewish man even though they were enemies of different religions, nationalities and racial backgrounds. At the end, Jesus tells us, "Go and do likewise."

The apostle Paul stated the equality of all people without regard to racial/ethnic background, social status, etc.:

*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (NIV, Galatians 3:26-28)*

## Racism

A long history of racism, particularly in the U.S., has made some people believe there is something immoral about dating and marrying outside one's own race. At one time, many of the states had *anti-miscegenation* laws which banned interracial marriages. All those laws were declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

A number of attempts were made to use the Bible to justify those bans on interracial marriage. Vague assertions were made that God intended for the races to remain separate. Some verses (Exodus 34:10-16, 2 Corinthians 6:14, etc.) were quoted in part or otherwise out of context in an attempt to show that God opposed interracial marriage.

## Church Doctrine

None of the mainstream Christian denominations discourage or prohibit interracial marriage.

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