

Series: The Cross and Culture; Sermon: **Race, Diversity and Unity**,  
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **September 23, 2018**

**Bible text explored: Genesis 12:1–3**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

<sup>2</sup>“I will make you into a great nation,

and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you,

and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth

will be blessed through you.”

[NIV]

**Review and application:**

1. Describe a time that you have personally witnessed racism or discrimination.
2. What (*Gen. 1:28* and *2:3*) was the Creator’s original blessing on humankind?  
How (*Gen. 2:16* and *3:4, 11*) was that blessing lost?  
What word (repeated in *Gen. 3:14, 17; 4:11, 8:21; 9:25*) underscores the resulting brokenness?  
*In “Joy to the World,” Isaac Watts summarized God’s redemptive purpose: “He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.”*
3. As Abram heard God’s call to become his channel of blessing, what was he told to leave (*v. 1*), and what destination was presented?  
(See *Gen. 11:1-4, 27-31* and *Heb. 11:8*.)  
How was his faith to be further tested? (See *Gen. 22:2*.)  
How promptly would God’s promise be fulfilled? (See *Gen. 50:24-25*.)
4. How (*v.2*) did God promise to compensate Abram for leaving his relatives and settled civilization?
5. What (*v. 3*) is the protective aspect of relying on God’s blessing?
6. How were all the world’s people groups to be blessed physically and spiritually?  
(See *Acts 3:13, 25* and *Gal. 3:8*.)
7. If God’s purpose is to bless all peoples on earth, what does that tell you about advocating any form of racism?
8. Why has racism continued to be an issue for America since colonial days?
9. For what tendencies to latent racism should I be on guard?  
. . . viewing other ethnic groups as inferior to mine  
. . . not listening out someone who has been hurt by racism  
. . . avoiding courteous contact with refugees gathered weekdays in our Commons
10. Paul recorded his own response (*Gal. 2:14a*) on observing conduct “not in step with the truth of the gospel.” How should I speak out calmly and clearly, yet lovingly, when I see others excluded?
11. Since being a good listener is an important part of combating racism, what next steps should I take to actively hear those whose experiences differ from mine?
12. What makes deliberately sharing the good news about Jesus the ultimate solution to endemic racism?