

What Makes Children Naturally Racist

I. Due to their sinful flesh, all children are naturally superficial.

- Genesis 50:15; I Corinthians 13:11; II Peter 3:18; Hebrews 5:12-14; Luke 2:40
- Children are superficial in that they don't have deep knowledge and understanding about any topics.
- However, it's important to note that our sin nature encourages us to be superficial because it's easier and we can make it line up with our preconceived notions. This is why children are wont to make snap judgments based off their very limited information and then act accordingly.
- Superficiality is ignorance, and since it's ignorant, it can easily oversimplify ideas and jump to extreme conclusions. And our sinful flesh will grab on to anything it can to justify itself.
- When a child is allowed to persist in their superficiality, they will become more and more judgmental with less and less evidence to support their conclusions.
- Now, this doesn't immediately make anyone racist, but it definitely sets the stage for it. Coming to ridiculous conclusions about an individual or people group based solely on the behavior of a representative few is a very simple step for the superficial individual too ignorant to exercise theologic in order to work through the diverse and multi-faceted situation in front of him.
- Racists are clearly a superficial, ignorant group who choose to discriminate against people based solely on the color of their skin. It's as if they wanted the entire world to know just how superficial they are by focusing on the single-most superficial thing about any person . . . their color.
- Now, obviously, we're all born into superficiality, and it's not inherently sinful because finite beings have to learn things. But it's always sinful to foolishly use our superficial assumptions to judge and hate people. This is why it's the Lord's will that we grow, mature, learn, and deepen.
- It's therefore imperative that we help our children move deeper in their understanding. This is one very important facet of teaching them how to think.
- If we do our children's thinking for them, they will continue in their superficiality. And it's very possible that superficiality will cause them to form judgements about people for all the wrong reasons.

II. Due to their sinful flesh, all children are naturally selfish.

- II Timothy 3:2; Philippians 2:3-4; Psalm 51:5
- Children are inherently selfish because we're all born into this world spiritually dead. That means that we do whatever we believe is best.
- Selfishness does not make anyone inherently racist. But — left to itself — selfishness grows exponentially.
- If I want something, and I'm not getting it, and I superficially see you and people like you as the reason I can't get what I want, it won't be long before I start treating you with disdain and contempt.
- If we want to help our children fight against this natural predisposition that could potentially lead to racist thoughts in the future, we must teach our children what God says about selflessness, Spirit control, love, humility, kindness, and care.
- As our children mature into a Christ-focused life, they will start caring more for the needs of others.
- Thinking like Christ is the only way our children will overcome their natural predisposition to superficiality and selfishness because everyone is conceived in sin as the fleshly nature is passed down to us from Adam, and that sin causes us to want to remain superficial and selfishly use that superficiality against others.

III. Due to their sinful flesh, all children are naturally hateful.

- John 14:15; I John 3; I John 4
- If love is to want and work toward another's best interest, then the best thing we can do for Jesus is obey His commandments. If we choose not to obey His commands, it's due to the fact that we don't love Him. If we don't love someone, we hate them.
- Now, the English definition of hatred requires strong aversion and disgust and hostility, but the biblical understanding of hatred is that we set ourselves against something. This is why not all hatred is inherently sinful. Setting yourself against something wicked is good. But setting yourself against God is sin.
- The biblical understanding of hate can also refer to loving something less than something else.
- Since we are born in sin, and since we are incapable of biblical *agape* love, and since we're selfish, we care more about what we want than we do what others want. This is why we have to be commanded all throughout the Bible to love . . . because we don't do it naturally.
- Hatred is natural to us.
- Now, racism is the definition of hatred. When an individual selfishly sets themselves against a people group simply because of the superficial color of their skin, they are being racist. They are not being loving, they are not humbly seeking other's best good, they aren't allowing themselves to see the situation in a mature, theological light.
- Just like we just parent our children out of superficiality into deeper, biblical thinking, just like we must parent our children out of selfishness into humility, if we want our kids to reject racism and truly love everyone in his life including his enemies, then we must parent them out of their natural predisposition to hatred.
- No genuine follower of Christ, no genuine blood-bought child of God will be a racist.
- That's not to say they may not sinfully choose to hate someone from time to time — and then humbly repent when they see their sin. I'm talking about a wholesale racist who decidedly hates a people group because of their ancestry.
- When Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors, He was asked, "Who is our neighbor?" Jesus then highlighted one of the most racially-charged issues of the day by relating the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- The answer is clear, no genuine Christian can be a racist. If someone is a true racist, he cannot be a Christian.

We must all accept that our children have natural, fleshly predispositions that could turn into racism if we don't address it.

And, as we've been learning, the only way to address them is to introduce our children to God's Truth and love and disciple them to be mature followers of Christ.