

# The solution to racial tension

2017 was marked by racial tension throughout the country. There were demonstrations from Black Lives Matter, White Lives Matter and White Supremacist groups in various states. January reminds us of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who fought for racial equality. Unfortunately, his dream has not been fully realized.

So, what is the solution to the racial crisis? I am proposing that the only person who holds the solution to the racial crisis is the person of Jesus Christ. Racial harmony will not be found apart from Him.

This crisis is not new. In Biblical times, racism existed between Jews and Gentiles. The Jews hated and despised Gentiles and the Gentiles despised the Jews. Jews not only hated Gentiles, they refused to associate with them. A good Jew would never enter the house of a Gentile because he would defile himself simply by entering. We see Peter (a Jew) struggle when God asked him to go to the house of Cornelius (a Gentile). Peter, in Acts 10:28 said, "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile. Therefore, Jews and Gentiles had no relationship."

Thankfully, reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles was found in the person of Christ.

The apostle Paul wrote about the peace making ministry of Jesus Christ in Ephesians 2:14-15. Jesus brought these hostile groups together in a new fellowship called the church. Christ reconciled these groups by breaking down the wall of hostility that existed between them. The wall that existed between the two groups was the Jewish law. The rabbis saw the law as something that divided Jews from all other races. This wall came down through His life, death and resurrection.

When Christ died on

## Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Edward Robertson



the cross, Jewish ceremonial laws, sacrifices, dietary regulations and rules about cleanliness and uncleanness all came to an end. In short, what separated the races was eradicated by the death of Christ. When the wall came down, reconciliation between the groups was possible. By transforming the hearts of Jews and Gentiles, they saw themselves as citizens of heaven instead of holding to their racial identities.

In the beautiful story *The Other Side* by Jacqueline Woodson, two girls—one white and the other black—lived in a town that is separated by a long fence. The fence kept the girls apart. They wanted to play and get to know one another, but the fence was an obstacle. One day they came to know one another. Their prayer was that someday someone would come and knock down the fence. That is exactly what Christ did. He knocked down the fence that separated Jews and Gentiles, blacks and whites. He knocked down the fence of racism and created this new fellowship called the church that is made up of people from every race, tongue and tribe.

As Christians entering 2018, can we follow the example of our Savior by breaking down the wall that separates the races?

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