

Group Mr. George Mair
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The Christian Institute & the S.A. Race Problem

1. "Race": The concept: Both scientists and anthropologists tell us that there are only 3 races:

- ① Mongoloid (China, Japan)
- ② Negroid (Africa)
- ③ Caucasoid (Europe - East Asia - India).

Further: Biologically & physically only the external features enable us to distinguish between people.

In biologically the 3 races have so much in common - the various blood groups are therefore spread over all 3 races

Further: No race absolutely pure - intermixing will increase as result of spread & easy transport

Further: No race is inherently superior or inferior e.g. intelligence divided more or less equally between various races

If this is so why all the bother?

- ① Most people everywhere in the world think in terms of race - we and the whole world are all race conscious!
- ② Our word concepts & terminology all mixed up: race, culture, nation, group
- ③ S.A.: historic developments in state (politics), (Afr & Eng speaking) - Boer War - Missionaries
Race: Clash Afr & Bantu

Position re' Church & Race:

- ① Diff. churches on racial grounds
Probyst - Bantu Prob.
Congreg - Bantu Congr.
Mauder - Dogtekeke
African separatist churches
- ② Validity of separate congregations & regional synods on linguistic & cultural grounds
- ③ The traditional viewpoints of many white Christians (Afrikaners - English: Methodist minister: Afr. members' reactions)
- ④ Series of articles in RDM on the Church & Race - image not very happy
- ⑤ Effect on Christianity amongst:
 - a) whites - tepid, subnormal, hypoc. & d.
 - b) non-whites - frustration, loss of faith, bitterness, hatred; intellectuals - youth - ordinary Africans (Sep. groups)
- ⑥ Unchristian relations & attitudes

Christian Institute & Race Relations:

i) Origin: Exam. study groups after Cottisloe -

ii) Main Aims & Objects:

iii) Mode of Operation:

a) Study, discussion & prayer groups

b) Study documents

c) Newsletter - for contact

d) Visits by Director

e) Conferences: Regional & national

iv) The Christian Institute & Race Relations

- Opportunities

- love & justice as main aim:

good race relations as by-product.

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