

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal ...”

— Abraham Lincoln, *Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1863*

## Vocabulary

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

<b>civil rights</b> . . . . .	Rights and privileges owed to a citizen, including the freedom of speech and of worship.
<b>discrimination</b> . . . . .	To be unfair in judgment; to be prejudiced; show partiality.
<b>Emancipation Proclamation</b> . . . . .	“Slaves within any State ... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.”
<b>endowed</b> . . . . .	Supplied with; given as a help.
<b>ethnic</b> . . . . .	Of or relating to a group of people that share a distinctive race, culture, heritage, or nationality.
<b>group identity</b> . . . . .	Being affiliated with a particular race, association, or people.
<b>nationality</b> . . . . .	Belonging to a nation by virtue of birth or naturalization.
<b>prejudices</b> . . . . .	Biases; stereotypical attitudes.
<b>religious affiliation</b> . . . . .	Identification to a church or belief; adherence to a certain faith.
<b>reputation</b> . . . . .	The estimation of a person; the public perception of a person.
<b>social rewards</b> . . . . .	Benefits that citizens of our society can enjoy. Awards based on achievement.

## DISCRIMINATION AND THE CHRISTIAN

In 1963, on the one hundredth anniversary of the **Emancipation Proclamation, civil rights** demonstrations occurred throughout the nation to call attention to the **discrimination** against black people and other minority groups. One of the most influential nonviolent demonstrations was the giant civil rights rally in Washington, D.C. On August 28, 1963, two hundred thousand black and white people, who supported the cause of equal rights, marched on the nation’s capital to peacefully illustrate their impatience with slow government action. It was a call for an end to discrimination. A key speaker at the Lincoln Memorial rally that day was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who addressed the crowd with his historic “I Have a Dream” speech. Even though the March on Washington occurred more than fifty years ago, there are still concerns by many Christians that not enough is being done to help

alleviate the racial tension existing in the country today.

**Why do people show discrimination?** Sometimes it is from fear. Other times it might be from a past hatred. Many people—sadly, sometimes even Christians—feel they have the right to feel superior to those of other races or **ethnic** backgrounds. In a country that glories in its racial diversity and openness, it is wise for the Christian to follow the commands of the Bible found in Galatians 5:14, “For the whole law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.” In other words, we are showing the first steps of obedience to God when we accept everyone in a godly way. Even those who do not follow Christ will be encouraged by the godly actions we show. This nation was founded upon the acceptance of all people.

**The signers of the Declaration of Independence were signing a magnificent document of personal freedom:** “We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed** by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” This statement is a foundational principle for American democracy, but even as this document was being signed, there were men in presence of that historic occasion who owned enslaved people and kept them from freedom. Some of those very slave owners proudly considered themselves Christians. Unfortunately, even today, discrimination and **prejudices** are locked into the minds of most Americans, including professing Christians. A specific example of discrimination is a practice that treats people unequally and does not let qualified people have the same opportunities to compete for **social rewards**.

**The Bible is in complete agreement with the freedoms discussed in the Declaration of Independence.** Just as Romans 10:12 tells us, “For

## CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

**We’ve all come from a unique background.** Since the founding of our nation, European immigrants have been assimilated in the United States. These immigrants came from a number of national cultures with a variety of languages, customs, family patterns, dietary habits, and general attitudes toward life. Usually, they would settle in ethnic colonies, either in small towns—sometimes given a European name—or in urban neighborhoods which became known as Little Italy, Greektown, Polonia, or any country from which the majority of the populace came. Though many immigrants planned a temporary residence in the United States, the majority remained. Some spent their entire lives within the ethnic colonies surrounded by fellow nationals, but succeeding generations moved out of the colonies as their assimilation progressed to such an extent that their European background became only a faint memory. Although European immigrants quickly became integrated in a common society, immigrants from other areas of the world have sometimes found assimilation more challenging. Instead, the prevailing American pattern has been the integration of white immigrants and the segregation of all other groups. That in no way should be the attitude of the Christian. Many Christian churches are giving an extra effort to reach out and embrace other races and ethnic

there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.” We find passages that tell us of the kindness and love we should have for the citizens and neighbors around us, no matter how different they are from us. Many people will bond together on the basis of **nationality, religious affiliation, economic status, language usage, or regional habitat, as well as race.** Of all these criteria, race is one of the most widely used as a basis for **group identity**.

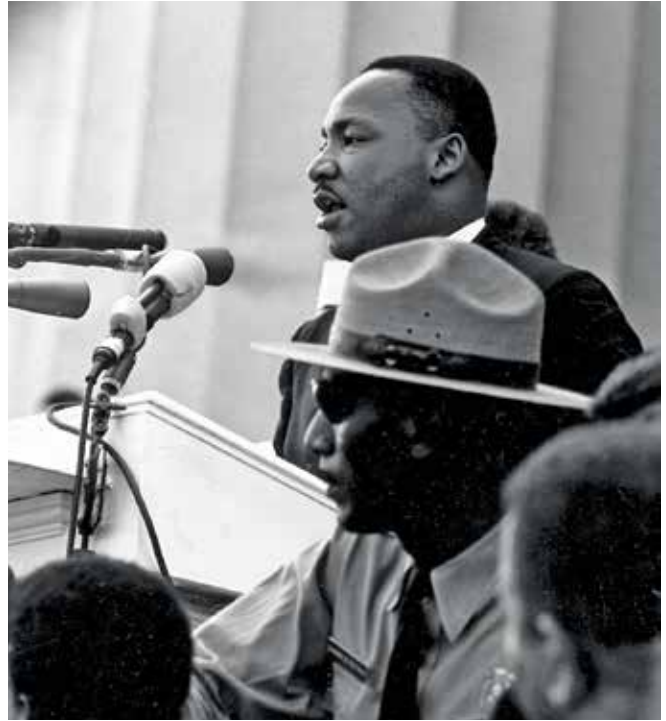
Race may be defined as a group of people somewhat different from other groups in a combination of inherited physical characteristics. Sadly, race is also substantially determined by popular social definition. We may often hear people speak of the Jewish race or the German race, but in reality this is an ethnic group rather than race. An ethnic group is any kind of group, racial or otherwise, which is recognized by society and by itself as a distinct group—and is open to discrimination as well.

backgrounds so that all may be accepted. In some western U.S. churches, there are even Spanish-speaking services alongside the English-speaking services so that everyone may worship in the same building and enjoy fellowship together.

**It took an amendment to the Constitution to get the freedoms needed.** The United States was founded and settled chiefly by people seeking greater liberty; therefore, many of the subsequent events in our nation’s history, such as the Revolutionary War, the settlement of the West, the coming of tens of millions of immigrants, and the participation in two world wars, have had liberty as their motivating force. In the American context, equality means that the government should not discriminate among citizens by establishing legal classes, but should treat all persons alike. Americans proclaim that every person should enjoy a fair and equal opportunity to realize their potential. The proclamations are admirable, but the practices of Americans have often left much to be desired. For example, slavery was an established institution until the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified on December 18, 1865 when slavery was abolished and freedmen were granted equal protection under the law. Section I says, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted,

shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Three years later, on July 28, 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment defined the rights of citizenship by stating in Section I, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privilege or immunities of citizens of the United States: nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment gave all male citizens the right to vote. "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of race, color, or Previous condition of servitude."

**Racial equality has been a constant issue in this country.** Though slavery had been abolished and all citizens granted equal protection under the law and the right of equal vote, equal opportunity was not guaranteed, and we still have a long way to go today. Beginning about 1890, approximately twenty states enacted segregation laws directed primarily at African Americans, but affecting in varying degrees persons of east Asian descent, Mexican origin, and even Native American origin. Although they varied from state to state, these laws basically provided for compulsory segregation of people along racial lines in the use or enjoyment of both private and public facilities including such areas as education, recreation, housing, eating establishments, and transportation. Finally in 1954, the "separate but equal" policy in regard to education was ruled unconstitutional, and a long, slow process of desegregation began. Since then, both federal legislation and state legislation have been passed in an effort to prevent segregation and discrimination. States now forbid operators of theaters, hotels, and restaurants to refuse service to minority groups, nor can private industry



| Martin Luther King, Jr. delivering his "I Have a Dream" speech

discriminate in hiring employees. However, there are people and organizations that discriminate against others and reflect racism through their thoughts and/or actions.

**All people should be active in overcoming discrimination.** Despite advances taken during the administrations of Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy promoting civil rights, many doors continued closed to minority groups, especially African Americans. Since 1963, desegregation laws have been consistently passed, attitudes of individuals are continuing to be altered, and are slowly eliminating discrimination in our American society.

**Answer the following question.** What do you think this means? Explain your views of Hubbard's quotation to a fellow student or parent.

"Many a man's **reputation** would not know his character if they met on the street."

— *Elbert Hubbard*



**CHECK**

\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Match each word with its correct definition.**

- |      |       |                           |    |                                                                                                      |
|------|-------|---------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.21 | _____ | religious affiliation     | a. | to be unfair in judgment; to be prejudiced; show partiality                                          |
| 1.22 | _____ | ethnic                    | b. | "Slaves within any State ... shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."                        |
| 1.23 | _____ | prejudice                 | c. | of or relating to a group of people that share a distinctive race, culture, heritage, or nationality |
| 1.24 | _____ | group identity            | d. | identification to a church or belief; adherence to a certain faith                                   |
| 1.25 | _____ | discrimination            | e. | bias; stereotypical attitude                                                                         |
| 1.26 | _____ | Emancipation Proclamation | f. | being affiliated with a particular race, association, or people                                      |

**Place a check beside the statement that is NOT true.**

- 1.27 \_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave the "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963.
- \_\_\_\_\_ States now forbid operators of theaters, hotels, and restaurants to refuse service to minority groups.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning about 1890, approximately twenty states enacted segregation laws directed primarily at African Americans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Slavery was an established institution until the Twelfth Amendment was ratified on December 18, 1865.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In 1870, the Fifteenth Amendment gave all male citizens the right to vote.

**Complete the following statements.**

- 1.28 \_\_\_\_\_ tells us, "For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him."
- 1.29 Compulsory separation based on race in public facilities is called \_\_\_\_\_.
- 1.30 "Fourscore and seven years ago our \_\_\_\_\_ brought forth upon this continent a new \_\_\_\_\_, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal ..." — *Abraham Lincoln*

**1.31** A specific example of discrimination is a practice that treats people unequally and does not let qualified people have the same opportunities to compete for \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Write the letter of the correct answer on each blank.**

**1.32** A group of people who share a distinctive race, culture, heritage, or nationality is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. discrimination                                      b. integration                                      c. segregation  
 d. race                                                      e. ethnic group

**1.33** Removal of legal and social barriers which impose separation of groups is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. discrimination                                      b. integration                                      c. segregation  
 d. race                                                      e. ethnic group

**1.34** What was the main point of the Thirteenth Amendment? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. The abolition of slavery.  
 b. Giving citizenship to the slaves.  
 c. Making it illegal to discriminate against a person because of their race.  
 d. Giving everyone the right to vote.

**1.35** What was the main point of the Fourteenth Amendment? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. The abolition of slavery.  
 b. Giving citizenship to the slaves.  
 c. Giving everyone the right to vote.  
 d. Making it illegal to discriminate against a person because of their race.

**1.36** What was the main point of the Fifteenth Amendment? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Giving the right to vote to all American males.  
 b. Giving citizenship to the slaves.  
 c. The abolition of slavery.  
 d. Making it illegal to discriminate against a person because of their race.

**1.37** What happened in 1890 concerning civil rights? \_\_\_\_\_  
 a. Twenty states passed laws making it illegal to discriminate against a person because of their race.  
 b. Twenty states passed laws that made segregation illegal.  
 c. Twenty states passed laws that enacted segregation laws.  
 d. The formation of the Ku Klux Klan.

**1.38** To be unfair in judgment; to be prejudiced and show partiality is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 a. discrimination                                      b. integration                                      c. segregation  
 d. race                                                      e. ethnic group

