



## **RACISM IS BREAKING THE 8TH COMMANDMENT**

*The very word “racism” brings up many negative images, thoughts and past history. But sadly, it is not past history but still a present reality. As a Roman Catholic Moral Theologian, I have given some thought to this matter and I would like to share my insights.*

*The Book of Genesis chapter 1, verse 26-27, states:*

*Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all wild animals and all creatures that crawl on the ground.” God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them.*

*The dignity of the human person is rooted in being created in the image and likeness of God. The divine image is present in every human person. It is not what we drive, what logos we have on our shirts, not how much we earn, but that we are created in God’s image and likeness. And because of that basic reality all people deserve respect and dignity. Denying this fact and working against this reality is a breaking of the Eight Commandment.*

*The Eight Commandment states:*

*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not swear falsely against your neighbor.*

*So, the eight commandment forbids misrepresenting the truth in our relationships with one another. The truth that all people are created in God’s image and likeness. It is an act of calumny to harm the good name and reputation of another person.*

*Racism detracts and destroys the dignity and honor of an individual. Every person has a natural right to the honor of his or her personhood, name, and reputation. The respect for the reputation and honor of all persons forbids ALL detraction and calumny in words and attitude against another human person.*

*My conclusion is racism in any shape or form is the breaking of the Eight Commandment of God. This might be a new interpretation, but the reality is the same. Racism is wrong and is a sin. Any one who commits an act of racism is endangering their mortal soul since they are breaking the Eight Commandment of God.*

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