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Why Interracial Marriage Does Not Mean Racism is Over

The idea of interracial marriage ending racism is an idyllic one. If we were a country where one were happily willing to marry another of a different race, then clearly we would be wholly tolerant of each other. On its face, the idea seems grand. And in fact, interracial marriages are on the rise. However, as the country moves slowly towards accepting interracial marriage, we learn by watching who marries who, that racism is still rampant within our country, despite.

We would expect then, if interracial marriage could end marriage then the evidence would suggest that those who married others of a different race would be impartial to the race of the partner with whom they chose to marry. However, the evidence does not show this. What the evidence suggests is otherwise. Interracial marriage is not indicating an end to racism. What it indicates is that America is racially divided.

It wasn’t until 1967 that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down *anti-miscegenation* laws. In fact, in 2013, a record high 12% of couples of different races bonded. Would this tell us that racism is dead in America? Why is it then in the same study that we were told that some racial groups were more likely to marry interracially than others, and that there was a large divergence between different races? Why is it then that 58% of American Indians, 28% of Asians, 19% of Blacks and only 7% of Whites have chosen to marry a partner of a different race? (Interracial marriage: Who is ‘marrying out’?) As much as the idea of interracial marriage on its face, seems like progress towards a race tolerant America, the above stats tell a different story – one speaking of in tolerance along racial lines. Quite frankly, we can assume that some races are more willing to marry other races than others, then logically, we have to assume that some races are less willing to marry other races than their own.

The rise of interracial marriages in America is surely a good thing. It wasn’t long ago that such unions would result in social exorcism, imprisonment, torture or death. However claiming that because people are marrying those of a different race means that racism has disappeared in America is a simplistic notion. What we are able to tell from these unions, in America, is not so much that we are heading towards a race free country, but rather we can draw from data template of which race is marrying which race. That data tells us, that, yes, albeit slowly that interracial marriage is on the rise. More importantly we can tell that interracial marriage on its own is not ending racism. It is telling us where the racism lies. We can see clearly which race is willing to marry another.

The real goal towards ending racism in America is to determine what it is that allows one race to easily marry another while at the same time which races are more hesitant to co-join. The question should not be “Can interracial marriage end racism in America?”,but rather, “What can we learn from interracial marriage to end racism in America?

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