

**Is Science Racist?***Jonathan Marks*

Cambridge: Polity Press, 2017 (145 ss).

This is a small, but powerful book. Anthropologist Jonathan Marks skillfully deals with a complex topic that concerns us all. The unfortunate reality of racism is well known today in many and diverse cultural contexts. Does this include our academic disciplines, notably science? The question posed by Marks is a good one and well worth seriously reflecting on.

Marks argues that scientists often rightly reject forms of creationism, whereas many of them not only tolerate, but sometimes welcome a racist perspective. His research shows, from a historical standpoint and the contemporary setting, that racism is a prominent feature of the scientific enterprise. This awful truth, he contends is not merely wayward, but also unscientific. In his view, there is no evolutionary evidence for human, biological hierarchies between people. While there is a good deal of diversity in the human niche, this does not translate into racial differentiation. The human species does not arrive on the scene with different sets of properties or divided up into particular kinds. Race is a cultural process; a social and political notion, not a biological or genetic one.

Further discussion in this volume is devoted to the meaning of 'science' and to the realm of scientific thought generally. And due to the recent rise of genomics, Marks also probes into questions concerning DNA and what relevance, if any, this might have into questions of race. Lastly, Marks offers an insightful chapter entitled: What we Know, and Why it Matters.

"The question posed in the title of this book has a deceptively simple answer. Science is racist to the extent that its prac-

tioners may be narrowly trained and particularly shielded from the knowledge about race that differs from their folk knowledge or common sense." P. 106. One of the advancements of science is to be self-correcting; to debunk its false notions of knowledge and common sense. No doubt this is close to the heart of Marks, as it should be for all scientists and for that matter all human beings.

I highly recommend this book. The author writes with wit, irony, and wisdom about a subject that remains to this day much misunderstood and thus all too often has bogus and derogatory consequences for the human species.

Gregory J. Laughery

**Paul and the Person. Reframing Paul's Anthropology***Susan G. Eastman*

Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2017 (207 ss)

This is a fascinating book dealing with the Apostle Paul's anthropology, a topic that deserves much more attention than it has been given recently. Eastman's work, at least partially, makes up for that lacuna. In light of ancient philosophy and advances in evolution and neuroscience today, Eastman explores one of the key issues of our times: Paul's view of personhood. Her interdisciplinary approach is a hallmark of wisdom, especially in our contemporary context, where reductionism is so frequently in evidence. Furthermore, to Eastman's credit she recognizes the complexity of this problem and sees her book as a beginning, not the end of the discussion.

The Introduction is an impressive overview of her approach, entitled The Puzzle of Pauline Anthropology. How shall we understand 'the person' in Paul's