**‘Racism is the worst form of prejudice’ Evaluate this statement. 12 marks**

Supporters would say that racism is the worst form of prejudice because it concerns the colour of your skin and ethnicity, which is not something anybody can disguise or change. The Bible teaches that Christians should “stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly,” which implies that people should be judged on their behaviour rather than what they look like. Therefore a Christian may agree that racism is worse than other forms of prejudice.

Rejecting views include the idea that actually all forms of prejudice are wrong, and therefore there is no ‘worst’ form. In Christianity, the Bible teaches the sanctity of life, which is the idea that all human beings are considered equal by God and all life is sacred. It doesn’t matter what race, sex, religion, sexuality etc. you are, this teaching says that all types of prejudice are wrong and we should all be treated equally.

Another supporting view would be another Christian view that “there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave nor free… you are all one in Christ Jesus.” This Bible quote instructs Christians to consider all races as equal. Although other forms of prejudice are also seen as wrong, racism may be considered the worst as in Christianity you can belong to any race and still worship Christ and be baptised as part of the worldwide Church community.

On the other hand, there are plenty of teachings in the Bible about prejudice towards poor people, which could suggest that Christians may be more concerned about this form of prejudice than racism. For example Jesus told a parable of the rich man and Lazarus, where Lazarus is mistreated by the rich man, yet it is Lazarus who enters heaven whereas the rich man perishes in hell. This story supports the view that we should not be prejudiced towards the poor and instead treat poor people with compassion.

In conclusion, I disagree with the statement. Prejudice is wrong in any form, as it involves making judgements about people before the facts are known. Whilst racism is undoubtedly unacceptable, there is no ‘worst’ form, which can also be supported with religious teachings about equality.