

DEALING WITH RACISM

Practical Faith – Part 4

SIN OF RACISM OR PARTIALITY: Showing **FAVORITISM** and bias **TOWARD** some people and showing **PREJUDICE** and bias **AGAINST** other people.

“God never shows partiality, and he cannot be corrupted.” Deuteronomy 10:17

“The Lord our God does not tolerate injustice, partiality or corruption.” 2 Chronicles 19:7

“1 My brothers and sisters, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, never show partiality. 2 Suppose someone comes to your church meeting wearing expensive clothes and jewelry, and a poor person also comes in wearing shabby, worn-out clothes. 3 If you show special attention to the person wearing fine clothes and say, ‘Let me give you the best seat,’ but say to the poor person, ‘You stand at the back or sit on the floor,’ 4 then you have shown discrimination and segregated God’s children by your evil judgment. 5 Listen to me brothers and sisters: God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he’s promised those who love him. 6 Yet you disrespect low-income people! Why? Don’t you realize that people richer than you take advantage of you? They have the money to sue you in court! 7 And they often misuse the noble name of Jesus to whom you belong! 8 Remember and always keep the royal law of Scripture, which is ‘Love your neighbor as yourself!’ If you do that, you’ll always do the right thing. 9 But anytime you show partiality or prejudice you sin and break God’s law.” James 2:1-9

WHY DOES GOD HATE PREJUDICE AND RACISM?

1. It questions God’s CREATION.

“From one man God made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.” Acts 17:26

“Who says you are better than others? And what do you have that was not given to you by God? And if it was given to you, why do you brag as if you did not receive it as a gift?” 1 Corinthians 4:7

2. It is a sign of IGNORANCE.

“Whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.” 1 John 2:11

“True wisdom from above is pure, peaceful, gentle, friendly, full of compassion and is free from prejudice and hypocrisy.” James 3:17

3. It DISOBEYS the great commandment.

“The entire law is summed up in this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself!’ But if, instead of showing love, you attack and tear each other apart, watch out! You will destroy yourselves!” Galatians 5:14-15

“You will be doing the right thing if you obey the law of the Kingdom, which is ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’” James 2:8

4. It is a SIN

“If you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and God’s Law condemns you as a lawbreaker.” James 2:9

“So why do you judge your brother? And why do you think that you are better than he is? We will all stand before God one day, and he will judge us all.” Romans 14:10

HOW DO WE BEGIN TO REMOVE RACISM AND PREJUDICE FROM OUR LIVES?

“...Love your neighbor as yourself...” James 2:8

ACTION STEP: We must **LEARN** to **SEE** people as God does.

“The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” 1 Samuel 16:7

“Stop judging by mere appearances...” John 7:24

“Then Peter said to Cornelius’ household, ‘You know, Jewish law forbids us from associating with people of another race. But God has shown me that no race is inferior or unclean.’” Acts 10:28

“34 I now realize that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.” Acts 10:34-35

KEY OBSERVATION #1: God’s plan to bring people together is the local **CHURCH!**

“13 Some of us are Jews, and some of us are Gentiles. Some of us have been slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body through one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit! ...27 Now all of you together are Christ’s Body, and each of you is a necessary part of it.” 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27

The Reason Why We Belong at Springbrook:

- Because none of us are **COMPLETE** in ourselves.
- We can’t **MODEL** reconciliation by ourselves.
- *“4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.” Romans 12:4-5*
- We find our true sense of belonging in **RELATIONSHIPS**.

“26 So now you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. 28 So there is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male, or female. For you are all Christians -- one in Christ Jesus!” Galatians 3:26-28

KEY OBSERVATION #2: My primary identity is that I belong to **GOD’S FAMILY**.

“In this new life one’s nationality or race or education or social position is unimportant; such things mean nothing. Whether a person has Christ is what matters, and he is equally available to all.” Colossians 3:11