

**I Love My Church**  
**Part 5 of 5**  
**Unite It**  
**Pastor Ken Claytor**

**I. Introduction**

- a. Recap
  - i. Part 1, Own it. We talked about the importance of having an ownership mentality in growing the church, not just coming to church.
  - ii. Part 2, Cover it. We looked at the importance of prayer, which grants us access heaven to see change in our cities.
    - 1. We must be willing to cover people in prayer, especially our leaders.
  - iii. Part 3, Multiply it. We found out that there were thousands added to the church in one day.
    - 1. God wants to add thousands to our churches today, but everyone has to be willing to make disciples.
  - iv. Part 4, Build it. We announced the big reveal of a new building for our church and the new season of harvest, blessing and favor.
    - 1. The blessing is in the act of building, not the building itself.
- b. Part 5, Unite it.
  - i. When we love our church, we unite it.
- c. This message contains topics that are challenging for some to hear.
  - i. However, we believe this message will bring healing and sense of love like we have never known.
- d. The goal is to encourage us to exchange our wrong perspectives for God's perspectives on our differences.

**II. How Does God See Race?**

- a. Satan wants to divide us in the time we live in by using the "race card".
  - i. The problems we face are not only about racism.
- b. It is time for us to lock arms and unite stronger based on our similarities because Satan is trying to divide us because of our differences.
  - i. United we stand, divided we fall.
- c. God sees one race among different cultures, nationalities and colors – the human race.

**Matthew 12:25b NIV**

..... "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.

- d. The spirit of division can ruin a family, slow down a move of God and bring down a nation.
- e. Satan's job is to turn:

- i. Wives against husbands.
- ii. Kids against parents.
- iii. Parishioners against their pastor.
- iv. Democrats against republicans.
- v. Whites against blacks.
- vi. Everything in-between.

### **Ephesians 6:12 NIV**

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

- f. We are fighting against the devil or the demons that are using people for their ill will, not people themselves.

### **III. Personal Experiences vs. Generalizations**

- a. Many people would not identify themselves as racists if asked.
- b. The truth is that all of us have certain ideologies or disposition towards certain people groups that might not be completely Godly.
  - i. Many of these attitudes can come from places of previous hurts or isolated experiences with people of other races.
  - ii. We were not created to stay in such mindsets of resentment, bitterness, or prejudice.
- c. We can learn to have balance between pride in our cultures, our backgrounds and respect for people that do not look like us.
  - i. Skin color does not have hinder our relationships or future successes.
- d. Satan loves it when we generalize entire groups of people based upon isolated personal experiences.
- e. All members of one group may not follow the same example of one person that we had a past problem with.

### **IV. What Does God Say About Race?**

#### **Acts 17:26 NIV**

<sup>26</sup> From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

- a. He made all men from one man named Adam.
- b. Genetically speaking, we are more the same than we are different.

### **John 7:24a NIV**

<sup>24</sup> Stop judging by mere appearances...

- c. God tells us to judge a person by who they are becoming on the inside rather than outer appearances (i.e., clothes, accents, height and weight).

### **Galatians 3:28 NIV**

<sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

- d. Outside of Christ we are not one.
- e. However, we are all united in Christ when we accept Him.
- f. He speaks of nationality and some culture, but not from a place of superiority or inferiority.
- g. He never mentions race because we all belong to one race in his eyes.

## **V. 4 Things to Know**

- a. Please always pray before you post to social media.
  - i. As a faith based community, it is important that we are very proactive in the following ways:
    1. We are asking for every person to pray for God's protection against potentially violent race-related events and/or fatal outcomes of those events.
    2. Avoid participation in racially-motivated protests if advised to do so by authorities for safety reasons.
    3. Participate in events designed to encourage love and unity to help cities heal from past racially-motivated events.
- b. Don't let the media make you crazy.
  - i. The media is a business with their own agenda.
    1. Sometimes the media tries to make us think a person is a racist just because of the words they choose to use.
  - ii. Even some protests are funded by people that are using the race card to push their political agendas.
- c. Embrace the minority.
  - i. Befriend people who appear to be different from the general crowd (i.e., may have a disability, belong to a different gender, or do not speak English as a first language) to let them know they belong.
- d. It's time to let go and forgive past hurts and experiences.