

“THE SIN OF PARTIALITY”

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INTRO: God wants us to see, process and respond to the various issues we face in life, such as racism, out of a kingdom culture orientation over an earthly cultural orientation.

I. INTRODUCING THE SIN OF PARTIALITY (James 2:1-4, 8-9).

A. Having faith in Christ and showing partiality to others don't go together (Ja. 2:1).

B. What is showing partiality?

1. Partiality is treating some people better or worse than others because of external differences (1Sam. 16:7).
2. Racism is treating some people better or worse than others because of the external difference of skin color (prejudice – pre-judge [Jn. 7:24; Rom. 14:10]).
 - a. Racism is based on the faulty assumption that a particular race is superior to another.
3. Systemic racism – racism that is embedded in (and therefore promoted by) institutional systems, affecting such areas as criminal justice, employment, housing, health care, education, etc.

C. What is showing partiality based on?

1. Ignorance (Hos. 4:6).
2. Misinterpreting our limited exposures and experiences.
3. Listening to the wrong voices.
4. Deception (1Jn. 2:11).

D. An example of the sin of partiality – treating a rich person better than a poor person (James 1:2-4).

1. God doesn't show partiality (Deut. 10:17-19; Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Luke 20:21; Gal. 2:6).

E. Love doesn't show partiality (James 2:8-9).

II. WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR (Luke 10:25-37)?

A. Your neighbor is the person in need you come in contact with as you do life (regardless of residence, culture, language, religion, politics, etc.).

B. Passing by on the other side is not loving your neighbor!

C. Loving your neighbor is showing compassion and mercy by using the resources available to you to meet the felt needs of your neighbor.

III. DO YOU THINK YOU MAY CURRENTLY HAVE THE SIN OF PARTIALITY OPERATING TO SOME DEGREE IN YOUR LIFE (1John 1:8)?

A. When we're under a lot of pressure it tends to heighten our weaknesses and lower our tolerances.

B. What have the Coronavirus and the racial issues stirred up and surfaced in you?

C. Are you willing to humble yourself and acknowledge the possibility of partiality in your life?

1. Ask the Holy Spirit.
2. Ask those who know you best.
3. Ask people you know who have a different skin color than you.

D. Love recognizes that everyone is created in God's image, has a God-given destiny, is loved by God, is to be loved by us which includes treating them with respect, dignity, kindness, grace, and mercy.

IV. HOW TO GET RID OF THE SIN OF PARTIALITY.

A. Admit it.

B. Repent of it (1Jn. 1:9).

C. Study it (Hos. 4:6).

D. Identify with it (1Cor. 12:26; Gal. 6:2).

E. Do something about it (James 2:26).

CONCLUSION: What have the racial tensions we've experienced in our nation stirred up in you? We can't love our neighbor while being partial. Is there some partiality you need to repent of? Regardless of your cultural background, you are welcome and wanted at Jubilee! We highly value the diversity in our Jubilee family and will fight hard to maintain that value (James 3:17)