

## “THE SIN OF PARTIALITY - PART 2”

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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. The sin of partiality (James 2:1-9) is treating some people better or worse than others because of external differences.

### **I. JONAH’S PARTIALITY (book of Jonah).**

- A. Ch. 1: Jonah ended up in the belly of a big fish because he refused to go preach to the city of Nineveh.
- B. Ch. 2: Jonah was vomited onto dry land after repenting.
- C. Ch. 3: Jonah reluctantly preaches to the people of Nineveh and they repent.
- D. Ch. 4: Jonah had a pity party. God dealt with Jonah’s national patriotism which blinded him from recognizing his prejudice against the people of Nineveh.
- E. Do you have the same blind spot as Jonah?

### **II. PETER’S PARTIALITY (Acts 10:1-48; Gal. 2:11-21).**

- A. Peter’s Vision (Acts 10:1-48) revealed God was removing the racial barriers between Jew & Gentile (Acts 10:34-35) (Peter had considered Gentiles unclean).
- B. Paul confronted Peter because of his partiality/hypocrisy in segregating himself from the Gentiles (Gal. 2:11-21).

### **III. THE CALL TO UNITY INSTEAD OF PARTIALITY.**

- A. God commands blessings of life on true unity (Ps. 133).
- B. Characteristics of true unity (Eph. 4:1-6):
  - 1. Walk worthy of your calling (v. 1).
  - 2. Live humbly before God and others (v. 2a).
  - 3. Be gentle with others (v. 2b).
  - 4. Be longsuffering with others – bearing with one another in love [that’s what love does] (v. 2c).
  - 5. Work at keeping unity of Spirit in bond of peace (v. 3).
    - a. Unity of the Spirit, not least common denominator.
    - b. The unity is already provided (vv. 4-6) – our part is to work to keep it.

### **IV. LEARN TO SEE OTHERS THROUGH A BIBLICAL LENS.**

- A. God created all mankind in His image, and God doesn’t have a skin color (1Cor. 4:7).
  - 1. Every race is a gift from God (you don’t choose your race).
  - 2. Embrace your culture while not looking down (or up!) at other cultures.
- B. Every person, regardless of skin color, is God’s workmanship (Eph. 2:10).
  - 1. Are you really going to question God’s workmanship!
- C. We’re all related because we all go back to Noah and Adam (Acts 17:26)!
  - 1. Have you accepted the pre-appointed times and the boundaries God has determined for all humanity?
  - 2. God is not interested in your opinion or your vote!
- D. We’re all related because in Christ we’re all brothers and sisters of the same family of God (Gal. 3:26, 28)!
  - 1. Kingdom culture isn’t color blind, but doesn’t show partiality based on skin color and values all races.
- E. God’s plan to bring people together is the church (1Cor. 12:13, 25-27)!
  - 1. The church (Christ’s body) has great diversity.
  - 2. We’re called to walk in unity and care for each other, which includes standing with those who suffer in areas where we’re not suffering and celebrating with those who have something good happen to them that didn’t happen to us.
- F. We’re going to spend eternity together (Rev. 5:9-10)!

**CONCLUSION:** Is the sin of partiality operating at some level in your life? Do you treat some people better or worse than others because of external differences, such as skin color? Are there some attitudes and actions God is calling you to put off and others to put on (Col. 3:8-11)? God’s plan to bring people together is the church! You are welcome and wanted in the Jubilee family where we highly value cultural (and generational) diversity and will fight for it!