

“THE SIN OF PARTIALITY - CONCLUSION”

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INTRO: We’ve been looking at the sin of partiality (James 2:1-9). 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. Partiality is treating some people better or worse than others because of external differences.

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

A. Peter’s Vision (Acts 10:1-48). Peter had a vision where God showed Him that He was removing racial barriers (Acts 10:33-34).

B. Peter’s Partiality (Gal. 2:11-21). Paul confronted Peter because of his partiality and hypocrisy as he segregated himself from the Gentiles.

II. 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 the Spirit in the bond of peace (v. 3).

III. LEARN TO SEE OTHERS THROUGH A BIBLICAL LENS (as God sees them).

A. God created all mankind in His image, and God doesn’t have a skin color (1Cor. 4:7).

1. All races are a gift from God reflecting His image.
2. We should therefore embrace every culture.

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 preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings that God has determined for all humanity?
2. God’s 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 – God’s family (Gal. 3:26, 28)!

E. God’s plan to bring people together is the church (1Cor. 12:13, 25-27)!

1. As members of that body we’re called to walk in unity and care for each other (1Cor. 12:25).
2. Caring for each other includes standing with those who suffer in areas we’re not suffering and celebrating with those who have something good happen to them that didn’t happen to you.

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? Are there some attitudes and actions God is calling you to put off (Col. 3:8)? Are there some attitudes and actions God is calling you to put on (Col. 3:10-11)?