

Putting Aside Our Prejudices

S#1.
S#2.

A. Our country is in a time of great turmoil.

1. A terrible video of a crime by a policeman has set off massive demonstrations.
2. Evil people who hate our country have turned the demonstrations into riots.
3. Great destruction and violence has unabatedly grown worse and worse.
 - a. At least 5 black people have been killed in these riots.
 - b. Law enforcement people have been killed.
 - c. At least 400 officers have been injured

B. Minorities have long complained about racial prejudice in policing.

S#3.

1. Because the video shows a white policeman killing a black man, instigators have been painting all policemen as bigots who dislike all blacks.
2. People misused & made up statistics to supposedly “prove” things that aren’t true.
 - a. There are more stops in minority neighborhoods because there is more crime.
 - b. It’s a function of poverty and unsupervised youths seeking excitement. (*bored*)
3. Crime has become a cultural thing among some groups so it is expected / accepted.
 - a. Thus, black youths are 3 to 5 times more likely to be arrested and convicted.
 - b. Why, more than 70 % of black children grow up without a father figure.

C. Fatherlessness is the root cause of much of our current social problems.

S#4.

1. Statistics on Fatherless Children in America : from the U.S. Department of Justice, children from fatherless homes account for:
 - **Suicide:** 63 % of youth suicides
 - **Runaways:** 90 % of all homeless and runaway youths
 - **Behavioral Disorders:** 85 % of all children that exhibit behavioral disorders
 - **High School Dropouts:** 71 % of all high school dropouts
 - **Juvenile Detention Rates:** 70 % of juveniles in state-operated institutions
 - **Substance Abuse:** 75 % of adolescent patients in substance abuse centers
2. MUCH of this fatherlessness is caused by our government regulations.
 - a. Mothers who receive ADC cannot have a man living in their dwelling.
 - *b. When I managed public housing I was required to check and to enforce this.
 - c. Children in fatherless homes often grow up undisciplined and problematic.
3. The problem of fatherless households has to do more with poverty than with race.
4. The problem has grown steadily since the “War on Poverty” started in the 60s.

D. This has been one of the foundations of the perception of racism.**S#5.**

1. Because the fatherless have grown up undisciplined, they refuse to be limited by laws.
2. Because they refuse to live within the common boundaries, they have more interactions with the police.
3. Because they have not been taught respect, they resist the police resulting in the police having to use force.
 - a. The perpetrators feel they are gaining “street cred” by resisting.
 - b. The officers deal with resistance so often they come to anticipate it.
 - *c. My police officer brother-in-law referred to being assigned to patrol the black side of town as being on the captain’s bad side,
4. Though there are some policemen who are racist, I do not believe it to be institutionalized or even as pervasive as is often thought or portrayed.

E. However, the thesis of this lesson is that neither racism nor any other form of prejudice is intolerable in a Christian.**S#6.****I. Definition of terms :** (Merriam-Webster)**S#7.****A. What is prejudice ?****S#8.**

1. Noun : preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience.
 - a. preconceived judgment
 - b. an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge
 - c. an irrational attitude of hostility directed against an individual, a group, a race, or their supposed characteristics (*Mike Hummer was robbed*)
2. Verb : give rise to prejudice in (someone); make biased.

B. What is racism ?**S#9.**

1. A belief that race is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race
2. Racial prejudice or discrimination
3. This term first appeared in the early 20th century.

II. Racism or other forms of prejudice are part of the old man of sin.**S#10.****A. When one becomes a Christian he must make radical changes.****S#11.**

1. **II Cor. 5: 17** – Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
2. **Eph. 4: 22** – That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, **23** and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, **24** and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (*We must be the one to put on the new self.*) **S#13.**

B. One of those radical changes one must make is in the way he views other people.

1. Those who would follow God must treat other people with love.
Matt. 22: 38 – This is the great and foremost commandment.
39 "The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"
2. There is a special relationship between members of God's family.
John 13: 34 – A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, **S#14.**
even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.
35 "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (Cf – **Lev. 19: 18**)
3. The Christian's love for his fellowman is not reciprocal; it flows from his heart.
Luke 6: 27 – But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

C. Any form of favoritism is forbidden in scripture. **S#15.**

James 2: 1 – My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. (*Positive also true*)

D. Racism is part of the fleshly nature of the old man. **S#16.**

1. We must each gain the victory over our flesh.
2. Prejudice is an animal instinct. (*tribal markings, e.g., misshaped heads*)
 - a. Farmers know better than to put a strange animal directly into a pen with others.
 - b. White chickens picked a red rooster to death.
 - c. Strange pigs must be given time to get used to each other, esp. of a different color.
3. People are naturally suspicious of people who are different from themselves.

III. The doctrine of creation shows racism to be illogical. **S#17.**

A. The actions of our creator prove a common heritage.

1. God created all mankind in HIS image. **S#18.**
Gen. 1:27 – God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, " Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; ..

2. Thus, **ALL** mankind comes from one extended family, Adam and Eve.

- a. “**Mitochondrial DNA** indicates that all living humans descend from one maternal source—christened Mitochondrial **Eve** ...”
- b. “Similarly, the Y chromosome shows that all men have a common ancestor, Y-chromosome **Adam**”

B. This establishes the sacred nature of ALL human life.

S#19.

1. **Gen. 9:6** – “Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man. **7** As for you, be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it.”
2. **ALL** human life is sacred and to be protected. (*murder of unborn*)

IV. All mankind is again united in the family of Noah.

S#20.

A. God destroyed all life that was not in the ark with Noah.

1. **Gen. 7: 22** – And all mankind; **22** of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died. **23** Thus He blotted out every living thing that was upon the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky, and they were blotted out from the earth; and only Noah was left, together with those that were with him in the ark.
2. **I Pet. 3: 20** – who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water.

B. We are all related in the family of Noah, BUT one of his sons was likely black

1. Ham [N] [H] [S] warm, hot, and hence the south; also an Egyptian word meaning “**black**”, the youngest son of Noah
2. Physical characteristics are affected over generations by one’s habitat.
 - * a. *Over 11 generations Dutch immigrants to Rhodesia became darker.*
 - b. The Aborigines of Australia have a unique nasal structure as do Icelandic peoples

V. At the tower of Babel God created the different nationalities.

S#23.

A. Gen. 11: 5 – The Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. **6** The Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. **7** “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech.” **8** So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.

S#25.

B. Acts 17: 24 – The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; **25** nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; **26** and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, **27** that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

1. God created the nations.
2. God determines where nations will exist.

C. Therefore to be prejudiced against a people because of their national origin is to be prejudice against the will of God.

CONCLUSION :

A. Therefore :

S#26.

1. By definition prejudice is an illogical approach to most things.
2. Doctrinally, **ALL** prejudice and racism is sin ... of the old man.
3. We are all related in Adam so racism is not logical.
4. We are all again related in Noah.
5. Prejudice against ethnic groups is prejudice against God's will.

B. Christians must put to death the old man of sin, including racism.

S#27.

C. Christians are all brothers in Christ. (*not favoritism* .. **Jas 2)**

S#28.

1. We are brethren by the new birth.
2. We are all brethren by adoption as sons of God
3. As sons of God, we have one common Father.

D. Are you living as a child of our heavenly Father ?

INVITATION :