

Sunday, July 7, 2013

Freedom from Racism

Selected Scripture

Racism not only divides us as men and women, but it also creates an offense between us and God. All different races of the world need the same Savior. If you listened to certain people you might get the idea that there is a white Jesus for the whites, and a black Jesus for the blacks.

James 2:1 (NLT) My dear brothers and sisters, how can you claim to have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ if you favor some people over others?

James 2:8-10 (NLT) ⁸ Yes indeed, it is good when you obey the royal law as found in the Scriptures: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹ But if you favor some people over others, you are committing a sin. You are guilty of breaking the law. ¹⁰ For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws.

The sins of racism and discrimination come from the root sin of pride. In order to put someone else down you have to elevate yourself.

Three Different Classes of Discrimination:

1. Racism

Racism – the act of discriminating against another person based on the complexion of that person; prejudice or animosity against people who belong to other races

Paula Dean:

"If there's anyone out there that has never said something that they wish they could take back, please pick up that stone and throw it so hard at my head that it kills me. Please, I want to meet you. I is what I is and I'm not changing."

2. Interracial Marriage

"Racist Christianity" is the reason interracial marriage is viewed with so much disdain today.

Numbers 12:1 (NLT) While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman.

It is my personal Christian conviction that interracial marriage is not a sin. There is no sin in mixing skin colors or nationalities. As the pastor of Clements Baptist Church, I desire that our church be an open door to every race, gender, and ethnic group in the world. This means very simply that our church needs a clear place to stand on interracial marriage. Church is the most natural and proper place for our young people to find a spouse. And they will find each other across racial lines. Opposition to interracial marriage is one of the deepest roots of racial distance and disrespect that I know of.

The Bible gives clear direction that a couple should not be unequally yoked, (*II Corinthians 6:14*) but the Bible never prohibits the marrying of two people with different colored skin. Every human being bleeds red blood. We are all created in the image of God. Better a Christian interracial marriage, than a godless white or black one.

3. Education

If you are a person who discriminates against a person's skin color, race, or social class, you have missed what grace is all about. Law always looks for what is wrong and then condemns; grace always looks at what a person can become in Christ.