

## TRIBALISM Lesson 1 Tribalism, Bigotry, and Prejudice

### CONTEXTUAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

#### Tribalism

*Strong loyalty to one's own tribe, party, or group.*

- **But those things which were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, Phil. 3:7-8**

#### Bigotry

*Stubborn and complete intolerance of any creed, belief, or opinion that differs from one's own.*

#### Prejudice

*Unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social, or religious group.*

Tribalism is the pride in one's tribe and belief that how and where you were born makes you superior to others. This is a fruit of the anti-Christ spirit. It will increase before Christ's return.

- **For nation (*ethnos-tribe*) shall rise against nation (*ethnos-tribe*), and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. Matthew 24:7**

Tribalism is a pride and feeling of superiority in a birthright you had nothing to do with. People are born where God ordains them to be born. They are born the color God ordains them to be born. To look down upon someone due to their color, tribe, or birthplace is ignorant, arrogant, and mocks the divine will of God.

- **When the most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel. Deut. 32:8**
- **And [God] hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; Acts 17:26**

All nations and tribes come from the same cursed, sin-filled blood—the blood of Adam. We all require Jesus Christ's cleansing blood now.

## **TRIBALISM WOULD PROHIBIT THE BIBLE HEROES**

- Churches infected with tribalism would never allow Moses to come and preach—He was of the tribe of Levi.
- Churches infested by tribalism would never allow Gideon to come and preach—He was of the tribe of Manasseh.
- Churches affected by tribalism would never allow Paul to come and preach—He was of the tribe of Benjamin.
- Churches controlled by the demon of tribalism would never allow Jesus Christ in—He is of the tribe of Judah.

## **JESUS IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH YOUR TRIBE**

Jesus Christ is not impressed with your tribe. Why are you? There are twelve tribes Jesus Christ mentions in heaven. Yours is not one of them.

- **And [the Heavenly Jerusalem] had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: Rev. 21:12**

There appear to be only twelve tribes the Lord Jesus Christ is impressed with. They are written on the twelve gates of the Heavenly Jerusalem.

## **JESUS DOES NOT SELECT PEOPLE BASED ON TRIBE—WHY DOES MAN?**

- **Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.** Acts 10:34-35
- **For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.** Galatians 5:6
- **For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.** Galatians 6:15
- **Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.** 1 Corinthians 7:19

We can see from these verses that God chooses people, not based on color, ability, tribe, or intellect, but rather, based upon their fear of the Lord, righteous works, faith, being born again (new creature), and keeping the commandments of God.

## THE SIN OF PARTIALITY

**Partiality:** *a favorable bias or prejudice*

Partiality is showing favor to someone and not another based on your own personal prejudices. Jesus Christ is not partial to skin color, tribe, or sex.

- **If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. James 2:8,9**
- **But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. James 2:9 NASB**

Partiality and prejudice are sins. They represent the total rejection of the royal law of love: Love thy neighbor as thyself.

- **I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring [prejudice] one before another, doing nothing by partiality. 1 Tim. 5:21**
- **But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated [approached], full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. James 3:17**

Biblical wisdom does not show partiality. Wisdom is impartial.

- **But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. Matt. 15:9**

Tribalism is a man-made, demon-inspired doctrine that makes the Word of God of none-effect.

- **Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1**

May the Body of Christ resist this wicked spirit as we draw close to Jesus Christ!!

## TRIBALISM

### Lesson 2

### Racism

As we covered in the previous lesson, tribalism is the pride in one's tribe and belief that how and where you were born makes you superior to others. This is a fruit of the anti-Christ spirit. It will increase before Christ's return.

- **For nation (*ethnos-tribe*) shall rise against nation (*ethnos-tribe*), and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. Matthew 24:7**

#### **Kingdom/*Basileia***

*Royal power, dominion, rule. This includes our understanding of kings and their domains, thus this word seems to imply nations as we understand them to today, along with their presidents, prime ministers, or kings.*

#### **Nation/*Ethnos***

*A broad term for any group of people, whether it be a nation, a tribe, a clan, a caste, or even a group of animals (e.g. murder of crows, flock of geese, pack of dogs, committee of vultures, etc.)*

- It was also used to group associations of professionals, e.g. carpenters, masons, bakers, etc.
- In the New Testament, the term "nation" (*ethnos*) is used to describe assemblies of people, whether it be:
  - The nation of Israel (**Acts 10:22**)
  - Nations in general (**Romans 4:18**)
  - The people of God called a holy nation (**1 Peter 2:9**)
  - Those outside of Israel and ignorant of God (**1 Thess. 4:5**-translated "Gentiles")

In **Matthew 24:7**, Jesus prophesied that literally groups of people would suddenly awake and, noticing their own differences, become hostile toward one another. This wicked attitude will only increase in frequency and intensity. This will bring nations to war and people groups into new prejudices. This is very similar to racism.

#### **Racism**

- *Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.*
- *The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.*
- *A belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's*

*own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others.*

Racism is not new, nor is it unique to America. Racism exists between the different Asian nations and even the different Latin nations. Stories of racism are also included in the Bible record.

## EGYPT AND ISRAEL

- **And he (Joseph) washed his face, and went out, and refrained himself, and said, Set on bread. And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: because the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; for that is an abomination unto the Egyptians. Genesis 43:31-32**

Though the Egyptians would trade and do business with Semitics, they obviously thought themselves too good to share a table with them at mealtime. However, with the popularity and deliverance brought about by the hand of Joseph (a Hebrew), the Egyptians embraced the Hebrews, and their racism toward them turned to thankfulness and acceptance . . . for a season. Their racism soon saw a renaissance. Racism can be developed and cultivated where there once was peace and acceptance.

- **Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens . . . But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. Exodus 1:8-12**

What a perfect pattern and demonstration of the genesis of racism.

- Two peoples (Egyptians and Hebrews).
- Someone to promote the sin of racism (Pharaoh).
- Use of divisive language: “the people of the Children of Israel . . .”
- Paranoia, fear, and insecurity as rationale: “they are more and mightier than we . . . there might be a war someday. . . they might join our enemies and turn on us.” Note: there was no basis for this fear.
- Demonstration of systematic racism ensues, and so does the oppression and enslavement of a people that once dwelt together in unity, peace, and prosperity.

## **EGYPTIAN RACISM TURNED TO ATTEMPTED GENOCIDE**

Pure unadulterated, unbridled, unhindered racism has no greater manifestation than genocide. Genocide is the deliberate and systematic extermination of a racial or cultural group. If a group of people truly hates another people, genocide is a natural, howbeit demonic, course of action.

- **And the king of Egypt spake to the Hebrew midwives, of which the name of the one was Shiphrah, and the name of the other was Puah: And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools, if it be a son then ye shall kill him: but it be a daughter, then she shall live. But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.**  
**Exodus 1:15-17**

Having failed to crush and break the Hebrews through slavery and cruel affliction, Pharaoh institutes systematic infanticide as means of early population control. This fails due to two God-fearing midwives.

- **Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive.”**  
**Exodus 1:22 NASB**

Pharaoh’s new proclamation did not depend on midwives suffocating babies in order to feign stillbirths. It was an outright command for the Hebrew families to drown their own sons. How diabolical and wicked. These are the conditions under which Moses was born.

## **TENSIONS BETWEEN JEWS AND SAMARITANS**

The Samaritans were a unique ethnic group in Israel first mentioned in the Bible after the Exile. Technically Samaritans have a bloodline that is part Hebrew and part Gentile. The Samaritans were the result of the Assyrians repopulating the remnants of the Israel’s Northern Kingdom after conquering it. The Assyrians moved slaves from other conquered lands into Israel and allowed them to intermarry with the Israelite remnant to purposely mix the peoples and destroy Israel’s culture and heritage (**1 Chronicles 5:26, 2 Kings 15:29, 17:3-6, 18:9-12; 2 Kings 17:24-34a**). The resulting people were called Samaritans. They claimed to be the original people of God and the keepers of the pure Torah. In truth their religion was a wicked mix of paganism and Judaism. For this, and other reasons, the Jews despised them.

- **Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.**  
**John 4:9**

This verse provides a window into the cultural and racial tension between the Jews and Samaritans in first century Palestine. Notice several things:

- The tension is two-way, it's not just Jew-Samaritan, it's also Samaritan-Jew.
- The woman is very mindful that Jesus is a Jew.
- The woman is quick to point out she is a Samaritan.
- She's expects to be treated one way due to "how it's always been," but she is treated differently.
- She points out that the "Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans."
- Jesus sidetracks all of the natural hang-ups and turns the conversation spiritual.
- When Jesus proves he's not hung-up on racial issues, the woman moves beyond them as well. I believe if she had stayed on racial hang-ups, he would have moved on.
- The Jews didn't want to kill the Samaritans. They didn't even want to rule over them or oppress them. They just didn't want to have any dealings with them. This may not be violent racism as defined above, but it is certainly prejudice and bigotry.

Jesus' final commandments on earth further poked at prodded at the Jews' hang-up with the Samaritans:

- **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** Acts 1:8

The Holy Ghost is given to empower us to be witnesses to everyone, even our prejudices. And notice you don't get to do missionary work until you first overcome your homegrown prejudices.

### **ABUSING THE TERM RACISM**

Currently racism is applied to any and all misgivings or imagined slights be someone of one color against a person of another color. Sadly, this can too often be described as an immature or emotional person "crying wolf". Not every disagreement or criticism is rooted in an attitude of racial superiority.

- **Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!** Psalm 133:1

## TRIBALISM

### Lesson 3

### Stereotypes and Culturism

As discussed in the previous two lessons, tribalism and racism are wicked and have no place in the hearts of Christians. Here are their definitions:

#### **Tribalism**

- *Strong loyalty to one's own tribe, party, or group*
- *Behaviors and attitudes that stem from strong loyalty to one's own tribe or social group*
- *Sectarian behavior (often negative and violent) that arises from the attitude of tribalism*

#### **Racism**

- *Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.*
- *The belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or races.*
- *A belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others.*

There is no superior race or tribe. Nothing avails in Christ but the new creature. You're either born again or you're dead to God. Not even being of the Jewish tribe can save you from the depths of Hell. You must be born again.

#### **Ethnos**

*A broad term for any group of people, whether it be a nation, a tribe, a clan, a caste, or even a group of animals (e.g. murder of grows, flock of geese, pack of dogs, committee of vultures, etc.). It was also used to group associations of professionals, e.g. carpenters, masons, bakers, etc.*

#### **STEREOTYPES, CULTURISTS, AND CULTURISM**

To avoid misjudging something as racist or prejudiced, we must understand stereotypes and culturism.

#### **Stereotype**

*Any thought or caricature widely adopted about specific types of individuals or certain behaviors intended to represent the entire group of those individuals.*



Examples of stereotypes:

- White men can't jump.
- Black people have rhythm.
- Asians are good at math/martial arts.
- Blondes are dumb.
- Irish love drinking.
- Russians are industrious.
- Mexicans are hard workers.

These are stereotypes. They say nothing about a race's superiority or inferiority. They are rudimentary observations based on limited data and experience. They are amateur scientific hypotheses deduced from human interactions.

**\*\*There is always some truth to stereotypes.\*\***

If you don't like the stereotype of your *ethnos*—don't feed the stereotype! Be the anti-type – the exception, not the rule. It is human nature to make observations and develop stereotypes, then make decisions based on those stereotypes. Don't let the first impression you make feed a current negative stereotype.

There are racial stereotypes, tribal stereotypes, career stereotypes, sports stereotypes, religious stereotypes, and cultural stereotypes; all because *ethnos* behave similarly.

**Culturism:** *Belief in the relative superiority or inferiority of certain cultures; discrimination or prejudice base on these cultural beliefs.* This is a rarely used word developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Culturist:** *one who judges a culture as superior or inferior.* A culturist is one who practices *culturism*. The use of this term has begun recently, but is perhaps long overdue.

- **And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. Acts 6:1**

A Grecian (Hellenistic Jew) was a Jew who had adopted the Greek language and much of the Greek culture through acculturation (the process of blending cultures) by living outside of Israel. Technically both groups in this dispute were of the Jewish "race." The only difference was the Grecians were Jews who had been born or lived outside of Israel for some time and then returned. This was a prejudice based on culture, and it was so strong that it was causing the mistreatment of widows!! This is an example of culturism, not racism.

## **BIBLICAL CULTURISM**

I want to introduce the concept of Biblical Culturism into the lexicon of society and theology (if it does not exist already). My definition is as follows:

- *The belief that all cultures of all nations and ethnic groups contain sinful traditions, customs, and habits, and therefore must be subjected to the perfecting work of God's Law and New Testament doctrine. In short, the Kingdom's culture is flawlessly preeminent and therefore takes precedence over any longstanding tradition.*

Unfortunately, human nature is very defensive of its own culture and takes offense to any critique. However, the Bible authorizes the New Testament minister and believer to take a stand against wicked and unjust cultures.

The early Church did just that by replacing their first set of prejudiced deacons with those who possessed the Kingdom Culture of honest report. They were full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, not full of petty cultural prejudice.

- **Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**

**Acts 6:3**

The early Church leaders rejected the deacons who allowed cultural differences to pervert their obligations and ministry. Five of the seven deacons chosen were men who were not pure Jews in culture: Stephen was a Grecian; Philip was from the coastal town of Caesarea; Nicanor was a Grecian; Timon was a Grecian; and Nicholas was a proselyte Jew. These men were known for rising above their natural culture by embracing Biblical Culture.

## **PAUL COMMANDED BIBLICAL CULTURISM**

- **One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies (lazy gluttons). This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;**

**Titus 1:12-13**

The Cretians had a reputation. Their reputation could also be called a stereotype—“typical Cretian.” They were known for being liars, evil beasts, and lazy gluttons. This was also part of their culture. Paul called out the cultural behavior of the Cretians. He did not attack them. He also authorized Titus to rebuke the culture and replace it with sound faith. This is Biblical Culturism. Every church and minister is commanded to address pagan cultures and replace them with Kingdom Culture.

### **ANTI-KINGDOM CULTURAL BEHAVIORS**

Below is a list of behaviors that will never be accepted by God. To confront these behaviors has absolutely nothing to do with race or stereotyping:

- Lying
- Fornication/Adultery/Homosexuality
- Stealing
- Illegitimacy
- Arranged Marriages
- Polygamy
- Laziness
- Murder (Honor Killings)
- Communication with the dead
- Body Modification (tattoos, gauging, scarification, etc.)
- Substance Abuse (alcohol, peyote, marijuana, etc.)

No cultural or ethnic group has permission from God to embrace sin, call it culture, and then exalt it above the Kingdom's Culture. Let us study the Bible and embrace God's culture!

## **TRIBALISM**

### **Lesson 4**

### **New Testament Prejudice**

#### **CONTEXTUAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

##### **Biblical Culturism**

*The belief that all cultures of all nations and ethnic groups contain sinful traditions, customs, and habits, and therefore must be subjected to the perfecting work of God's Law and New Testament doctrine. In short, the Kingdom's culture is flawlessly preeminent and therefore takes precedence over any longstanding tradition.*

##### **Bigotry**

*Stubborn and complete intolerance of any creed, belief, or opinion that differs from one's own.*

##### **Culturism**

*Belief in the relative superiority or inferiority of certain cultures; discrimination or prejudice based on these cultural beliefs. (This is a rarely used word developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.)*

##### **Culturist**

*One who judges a culture as superior or inferior. A **culturist** is one who practices culturism. (The use of this term has begun recently, but is perhaps long overdue.)*

##### **Prejudice**

*Unreasonable feelings, opinions, or attitudes, especially of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social, or religious group.*

##### **Racism**

*A belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others.*

##### **Stereotype**

*Any thought or caricature widely adopted about specific types of individuals or certain behaviors intended to represent the entire group of those individuals.*

##### **Tribalism**

*Strong loyalty to one's own tribe, party, or group.*

#### **STEREOTYPE vs. RACISM**

In America, most of what is often labeled racism today is actually a stereotype based on cultural observation tied to an ethnic demographic. For example:

- *White people love country music.* That's a stereotype based on a limited cultural observation. Not racism. This does not describe all whites.
- *Black people like watermelon.* That's a stereotype based on a limited cultural. Not racism. This does not describe all blacks.

- *Asians are good at math and kung-fu.* That's a stereotype based on a limited cultural observation. Not racism. This does not describe all Asians.
- *Mexicans are lazy.* That's a stereotype based on a limited cultural observation. Not racism. This does not describe all Mexicans.
- *Arabs are terrorists.* That's a stereotype based on a limited cultural observation. Not racism. This does not describe all Arabs.

If you don't like your demographics' stereotype, don't be the one that feeds it or fulfills it.

### **NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES OF PREJUDICE**

All cultures and peoples have prejudice, racism, and bigotry because it's part of the sin nature. As we saw in Lesson 2, the Jews had a national pride that evolved into prejudice and racism. Consider the following examples:

#### **5 Fishes and 2 Loaves**

- **And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city Bethsaida. And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. **Luke 9:10-12****

Jesus multiplied fishes and loaves twice in two different places. The first event took place just outside of Bethsaida. Here are the facts of the event:

- Bethsaida (*House of Fish*), the hometown of Andrew, Peter, John, and Philip.
- Bethsaida was a Jewish city.
- The disciples initiated the miracle after a long day out of concern for the people in attendance.
- The disciples had a natural compassion for their "own" people.
- Jesus fed 5,000 men that day.
- There were 12 baskets left over, indicating everyone in attendance was fed.

#### **7 Loaves and Some Fishes**

- **And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis. [...] In those days, the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. **Mark 7:31; 8:1-3****

This miracle took place a short time after the first miracle provision but in Decapolis (*Ten Cities*), a predominantly Gentile region southeast of Bethsaida along the coast of Galilee.

Decapolis was a ten-city region where the Romans heavily supported and encouraged Roman culture to flourish. Notice how this event unfolded:

- This revival took place in a predominantly Gentile, pro-Roman district.
- The 12 disciples were not concerned about the crowd's wellbeing even after three days of no food.
- It was Jesus who was moved with compassion after the disciples had remained silent.
- Jesus fed 4,000 men.
- There were seven baskets left over indicating that everyone present was fed.

The disciples were prejudiced and so are we.

### **PETER'S HEART CONDITION**

We often falsely view the Apostles as perfect. Peter was a Jew born and raised in Israel during the time of Roman occupation and was therefore understandably inculcated in Jewish pride, nationalism, and perhaps resentment. Yet, Jesus still selected him to be one of the 12 Apostles of the Lamb. Peter's transformation was not overnight. He demonstrated typical Jewish prejudice over and over again during the Lord's ministry. His heart change didn't happen in the 3 years of the Lord's ministry, nor did it happen at Pentecost. Peter continued to show signs of prejudice well into his Apostleship.

### **Peter and The New Deacons**

By Acts 5, Peter had outgrown any bias or prejudice against Grecians (Jews born outside of Israel; Hellenized Jews). He and the apostles ordained 7 new deacons, three of which were Grecian and one was a proselyte Jew.

### **Peter and Cornelius' House**

Even in Acts 10 (10 years after Christ's Ascension by some estimations), Peter was still dealing with prejudice in his heart. The Lord arranges the Cornelian Experience to help Peter further fix his heart. With hidden prejudice in his heart, Peter had a trance:

- **And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: Wherein were all manner of fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common [unclean, unhallowed]. This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.**  
**Acts 10:11-16**

The Lord's statement to Peter reveals the heart of Peter's prejudice—Peter struggled to see Gentiles as anything but unclean, common, and defiled. He struggled to believe that

Gentiles could be born again. This was a racism, bigotry, and culturism based on his Jewish upbringing (and probably Roman occupation).

- **And he (Peter) said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.**  
**Acts 10:28**

Though Peter was a born again, Spirit-filled, Apostle of the Lamb, he still had heart murmurs. The Lord sent Peter to a Roman Centurion's house—talk about a confrontation of prejudices.

- **And the morrow after they entered into Caesarea. And Cornelius waited for them, and had called together his kinsmen and near friends (all Gentiles).**  
**Acts 10:24**

The Lord had to really help Peter through his anti-Gentile prejudices:

- God began knocking some sense into Peter by knocking him into a trance.
- An angel forewarned Peter about Cornelius's messengers and commanded him to go with them "nothing doubting" because they were sent by God (**Acts 10:19-20**).
- The Lord allowed Peter to take with him "certain brethren from Joppa" (**Acts 10:23**). He had to have "his people" with him.
- And for the Grand Finale, Peter got to watch a Roman Centurion and his entire Gentile household and friends get baptized in the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues in a re-enactment of the Jewish feast of Pentecost.
- God did all of this to help an Apostle of the Lamb through his prejudice.

### **Peter's Antioch Sin**

Nearly 30 years after Pentecost and almost 20 years after Peter's experience at Cornelius' house, Paul recorded an experience when Peter reverted to his Gentile prejudice in Antioch.

- **But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed. For before the certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him, insomuch that Barnabas as was carried away with their dissimulation (hypocrisy).**  
**Galatians 2:11-13**

Peter had made an about-turn in his prejudice, freely fellowshiping with Gentiles, but when members from his old crew showed up—Jewish Christians from Jerusalem—he fearfully reverted to his old heart condition. Peter's heart had not totally changed yet. And neither has ours! May God help us overcome the antichrist attitude of prejudice.

## TRIBALISM

### Lesson 5

### Culturism Revisited and Overcoming Offense (Personal Thoughts)

#### CONTEXTUAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

##### **Biblical Culturism**

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##### **Culturist**

*One who judges a culture as superior or inferior. A **culturist** is one who practices culturism. (The use of this term has begun recently, but is perhaps long overdue.)*

##### **Stereotype**

*Any thought or caricature widely adopted about specific types of individuals or certain behaviors intended to represent the entire group of those individuals.*

#### MY THOUGHTS

Born and raised in the Deep South, having lived in diverse Seattle, and having travelled to many cultures around the world now . . .

- Most of what America is experiencing now could be called a prejudice or bigotry based on a cultural stereotype tied to a skin color. AKA Culturism
  - Police/Black tension
    - Inner City experience (10% live in rural communities, 39% live in suburbs, 15% live in small metro areas, 36% live in cities—in 1990, 95% of blacks in the NE, MW, and W lived in metro/city areas)
    - A bulk of America's black population live in the inner city.
    - Every Inner City (around the world) has a unique and stereotypical culture.
      - Slums, crowding, poverty, crime
    - Inner cities or cities are policed differently, and a unique tension is built through profiling, interactions, and sin.
  - The experiences between blacks in the inner city, the suburbs, and rural communities like ours differ (in America).
  - Today, severe or extreme tensions are not pure racism, but culturism—profiling and stereotyping based on an inner-city culture that is tied to a skin color



- BUT IT'S NOT JUST THE POLICE STEREOTYPING BLACKS FOR DIFFERENT TREATMENT
  - Police
  - Sports agents
  - Drug pushers
  - Blacks (Dr. Lonnie Brown's quote)
- "Every man is right in his own eyes." Don't allow your personal experience to be your gospel or guiding light in race relations.
  - My wife was robbed at gunpoint by the stereotypical "thug" ... but the Gospel.
    - But we were also robbed by white meth-heads ... but the Gospel.
  - I've been stared at and jeered at in Africa numerous times. I've been concerned for my safety a handful of times in Africa ... but the Gospel.
  - [Bishop Butler's cop experience]
  - Carlton Pearson (before his heresy) said "Every time the Holy Ghost wants to bring us blacks revival, we try to turn it into a civil rights movement."
- The Church's commission is the Gospel of Reconciliation (back to God), not social activism. We are not called to rub elbows and march with pagans for social causes. We are commanded to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them and win them to the Kingdom.
- Social activism will always be dead works of the flesh. There is no eternal power in it. It is a demonic distraction away from the Kingdom.
- The Body of Christ is made up of all nations, tribes, and tongues.
- We are commanded by our God to grow His family through preaching the Gospel.