

Thursday, June 18, 2015 - Looking in the Mirror

The loss of life is senseless. The loss of life based on prejudice, while even more senseless, has been present for as long as man has been on the earth. Prejudice was present in both Old and New Testament times as is evident in various incidents recorded in the Scriptures. It is, unfortunately, still present today.

Prejudice, as the word itself indicates, means to prejudge. It is to judge before and without the facts, usually in an unfavorable way. It is to generalize to all in a group how one feels about a few in that group. It is condemnation without investigation. It is the quick, easy—but usually inaccurate way—to form an opinion of someone.

Prejudice, segregation, and discrimination have been made illegal but attitudes people have towards one another can NOT be legislated. We all need to understand where prejudice originates, with SATAN. Satan is the father of all lies and Satan uses the lie that he is harmless to convince people to forget that he is real, which will make us more vulnerable to his deceitful ways. But we are to “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

Satan knows us better than we know ourselves. Satan uses his lies to deceive people into rejecting and disobeying God. With his lies Satan appears innocent. “For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Because the vast majority of people have believed the many lies of Satan, they will be punished forever in the eternal fires of Hell (Matthew 7:13-14). Satan already knows at the end of time, he “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10). Satan also knows “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:15). Satan’s main objective is to cause as many people as possible to be lost with him in Hell. Satan’s main tool to accomplish this is his lies.

God's word is truth. Within this truth we find the Words of Life (John 6:63). Satan desires men to judge other men by appearance and other secular values. God, not man, objectively and realistically sees both strengths and weaknesses, successes and failures of all human beings and will render His judgment based upon who we really are. Whatever God’s judgment of a person might be, we can be sure it is based upon real values, not merely external appearances or other human criteria. Consider the following:

“The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart’” (1 Sam. 16:7).

Jesus said, “Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24).

We need to learn to see as God sees, feel as God feels, and act as God acts. He created all in his own image (Gen. 1:26). He made of one blood, all men to dwell on the face of the earth (Acts 17:26). He instructed Peter not to “call any man common or unclean” (Acts 10:28). God is no respecter of persons— no face receiver (Acts 10:34-35). He does not judge, accept, nor reject anyone on outward appearance.

We need to learn to see, to feel, and to act as Jesus did. He “must needs go through Samaria” (Jn. 4:4) on his way to Galilee. Why? It was not because that was the only way to get there or that he was in that big of a hurry. He went through Samaria to set the right example—to show he was not prejudiced. He converted the woman at the well and spent two days with them.

We need to hear again the scriptures. In Christ “know no man after the flesh” (2 Cor. 5:16). Christ has “broken down the middle wall of partition between us” (Eph. 2:14), and we should leave it down. Jesus prayed that we all be one (Jn. 17). As Christians, we are equal in the sight of God. Christians are servants of God (Matthew 20:26; James 1:1; Galatians 3:26-28). Christians are to hold all of their brothers in equal esteem. They are not to defer to some and look down on others (Acts 10:34).

If the world truly wants to eradicate prejudice, segregation, and discrimination, the answer lies in Jesus Christ. Quit turning to hate mongers, race baiters and others who try to gain from the ignorance of others. As with all the world's problems, Jesus is the answer.