

THE SIN OF PREJUDICE

By Keith Greer

This is the twenty-first century. We have had some great advancement in many different fields: science, medicine, space, military, and we have every convenience under the sun. Yet, in one area we have not made much progress – getting along in the human race.

What is prejudice? "An adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without knowledge or examination of the facts". (American Heritage Dictionary) Is it alive today? Sadly, I must answer in the affirmative. Yet, it is not new.

"Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, 'How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.' {John 4:9} The Jews thought Samaritans were worse than dogs! Yet, Jesus looked beyond her race and saw a soul! What was the result?

"And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all that I ever did' {John 4:39} Souls were saved!

"So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship." {Acts 8:27} What if you had been sent to this man of a different race? Philip's teaching led to another soul obeying truth!

When you see your fellow man, what do you see? A black man, a yellow man, red man, or a white man? If that's what you see, your eyesight is out of focus! What color is the soul? Did God make a difference between mankind?

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings," {Acts 17:26} God said "one blood"! All men are precious to God!

If you were in the hospital, for surgery, and blood was going to be needed, would you allow another's blood, from a different race, to be put in your body? If not, are you prejudiced? Men will many times do this, yet, all men cry for the blood of Christ to wash away sins!

"...and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, 'You sit here in a good place', and say to the poor man, 'You stand there,' or, 'Sit here at my footstool,' have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?" {James 2:3,4}

We understand this principle concerning the rich and poor. Yet, does this principle go any further? The principle also applies to our treatment of different races. If we show preference of one over the other, have we shown partiality?

When Christ gave the Great Commission, who was it sent to? "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," {Matthew 28:19} All nations! Is it any different for us today?

Do we stick with "our own"? Would you conduct a Bible class to one of another race? Could you do it in your home? Do you welcome the visitors of all races? Now be honest!

Some say, "I don't have anything in common with people of other cultures." Do they have a soul? Do they have sin in their lives? Are they in need of the saving gospel of Christ? Can Christ save them? Does God love them? Do you love them? Can we not lift a proverbial finger if one is heading to eternal destruction and still claim to love them? Think about it! ***