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Holy Spirit: Racism Is Sin—P2

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28 NASB).

For mankind, racism is easy—a symptom of our rebellion. After the Fall, as man multiplied, genetics revealed physical differences in humanity, and we began to apply value to some and inferiority to others. Why?

It is man’s sin nature to decided for himself what is “right” and what is “wrong.” Left to ourselves, we discriminate “good” and “bad” to suite our own tastes. We do this to ideas, morals, behavior, and people—always trying to compare ourselves to others for the sole purpose of elevating ourselves. We construct hierarchies to raise ourselves above others—based on ethics, manners, money, power, heritage, skin-color—anything will do.

We “elevate” ourselves because we KNOW the Fall has brought us down into the filth of sin. And “elevating” ourselves over others is the only thing we think we can do to make us feel like we are rising above that guilt—we are like the Pharisee, who, *“standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector’”* (Lk. 18:11 ESV). Similarly, as children, our parents tell us, “Don’t be like THEM!” And so, we mark THEM as undesirable. As bad as we are, we shift the blame or guilt we feel onto others—“at least I’m not like THEM!” And by these comparisons, we prove that we are “better.”

What is a more obvious contrast than people’s physical differences— their heritage and race? And so, our physical birth becomes a factor in our value to the human hierarchy—sometimes in history your race rises in “value” and sometimes it falls, as men scramble over

each other trying to reach the top of their justification scheme. In the world’s economy, everything is about justifying yourself in comparison to others. Man takes great pride in himself, whether by works or inherited “blood.”

In Jesus’ day, the Jews felt they stood at the top of the spiritual hierarchy, not just because of their works, but because of their race: *“We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone”* (Jn. 8:33a). A Jewish prayer of the time thanked God that “You did not make me a gentile...” They were God’s “chosen people” - as if by the merit of their blood they were superior, rather than a servant chosen by God to carry His blessings to all races (Gal. 3:6-8). They had come to believe they were a pure and select race and had an inherited right to Heaven simply because they were Abraham’s children. But Jesus replies, *“Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father,’ for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham”* (Lk. 3:8b). Through Christ, God does not judge you by your race or heritage. On the contrary, *“I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth”* (Matt. 8:11-12).

Race has no bearing in your standing with God. *“Even so Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham. The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘All the nations will be blessed in you.’ So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer”* (Gal. 3:6-8). The Word of God revealed to the world that racism is sin through the Gospel. Amen.

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