**Revelation #99 – *God is no respecter of persons: Racism unmasked-* September 7, 2020**

*“Peter said, ‘Now I know for certain that God doesn’t show favoritism with people but treats everyone on the same basis. It makes no difference what race of people one belongs to.* **IF** *they show deep reverence for God, and are committed to doing what’s right, they are acceptable before Him.”* Acts 10:34-35 (Passion translation)

*“****IF*** *you keep the royal law found in scripture, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’, you are doing right. But* ***IF*** *you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.”*  - James 2:8-9

*“I urge you then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for ALL people, for kings and those in authority, that we may live peace and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our savior, who wants ALL people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for ALL people.”* – I Timothy 2:1-6

*“You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.” –* Romans 2:1

*“There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;* ***but glory, honor, and peace*** *for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For God does not show favoritism.”* – Romans 2:9-11

“*Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, ‘Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.’”* – Matt 12:25; Luke 11:17; Mark 3:24

*“But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.”* – Gal 5:15

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.”* – Psalms 133:1

*“Judge not lest you be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye but pay no attention to the plank in your own eye. You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, then you will see clearly how to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.” -*  Matt 7:1-4

***Definition; Cause; history; cure and application***

Oxford definition of **Racism**: “the inability or refusal to recognize the rights, needs, dignity, or value of people of particular races of geographical origins; the devaluation of various traits of character or intelligence as ‘typical’ of particular peoples.”

Definition of **Prejudice**: “preconceived notion or unfavorable opinion that is not based on reason or actual personal experience; unreasonable feelings, opinions, attitudes, or biases, usually of a hostile nature, regarding an ethnic, racial, social, or religious group.” (Taking up offense for another)

*“People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”*  - I Samuel 16:7

*“I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.”*  - I Timothy 5:21

*“Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrong, and there is no favoritism.” – Colossians 3:25*

*“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” – Eph 4:32*

*“These are the sayings of the wise: To show partiality in judging is not good.” – Proverbs 24:23*

*“For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile – the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on Him.” – Romans 10:12*

*“Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice, partiality, or bribery.” – 2 Chronicles 19:7*

1. **Racism**, hatred, pride, jealousy, and anarchy are the normal and natural consequence of sin in humanity and societies around the world. Unchecked or unhealed by the blood of Jesus Christ, **racism** is just part of this disease and pandemic of sin, which has touched every human being and is passed down generationally. It is one symptom or manifestation of a larger problem. It always involves judgment, opinion, bias, pride, bullying, rejection, entitlement, fear, control, insecurity, and many other spirits. Though some of it is taught and trained experientially from one generation to another, there is already a natural fear and mistrust of anyone who is different than us. Right there in the garden, when God confronted Cain and his jealousy and hatred for his brother, He told him that “*sin is crouching at the door and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”* (Genesis 4:7)
2. **RACISM** is another form of CLASS-wars: Ruling class v. Servant class, Educated v. Non-educated, rich v. poor, white-collar v. blue-collar, one Clan v. another, one FAMILY v. another, Tribalism of every sort, Nepotism or Familial preference and favoritism. It is a setting up of one group of people over another, with a generational belief system that is passed down to believe one is inherently better than another, thus justified in their control or abuse of the under-class. It is another aspect of the Hierarchical way of thinking that dominates almost every culture in the world, even in the church. It also includes Religious distinction, which creates its own separatist thinking and justification for hatred and violence against anyone who is different than you.
3. Satan hates that man is made in the image of God. He hates marriage, family, unity, goodness, and anything of the nature of God. He loves **racism** and promotes it, knowing that he is using it as a tool to help man be an unwitting instrument to carry out HIS agenda of hatred, discord, and death. “*The enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy, but God came to give us live and life abundantly…”* (John 10:10) Guess what, evil is a normal spirit in the world, and it promotes only more evil. Evil unchecked just leads to total chaos, destruction, and death. Hate the disease, not the person. Leave the hating to satan.
4. **Racism** is IN EVERY single race and creed! A significant piece of the discussion when people are looking to assign blame for the appearance of racism in this country. The Mayans and Aztecs enslaved people, which are the heritage of the Hispanic peoples. There is not a single people group, minority group, that has not BOTH been a slave or been a slave owner, from Asians to Africans to Russians to Europeans to Hispanics. NO ONE has the right to point to themselves as the only victim and everyone else as the oppressor. (Victim thinking) How can we move FORWARD if we are ruled by our PAST!
5. In America’s history, the FIRST slave owners were the Indians, who both enslaved others and were themselves slaves. Secondly, after others came to America, BLACKS were the first slave owners and slave sellers. Not to mention how the Hispanics coming from Mexico enslaved Indians as well as their own people. Kamala Harris’ own GGF, a Jamaican Black man, owned 1100 slaves and was paid the equivalent of $3 million after abolition. He then proceeded to “purchase” Irish immigrants to do the same slave work as the previous black slaves he owned.
6. **Racism**, sexism, chauvinism, nepotism, narcissism, ageism, prejudice, etc, everything that causes us to show favoritism or to hate anyone different than us, is a part of the devastating effects of sin and how it causes us to hate and murder one another, believing we are defending or protecting ourselves! IT creates an up/down relationship. Every belief system that establishes a hierarchical mindset, whether **racism**, sexism, or chauvinism, creates inequality, dishonor, and devaluing of that person or group. Relational hierarchy was a result of sin, and Christ died to remove that curse. It is a celebration and judgment of false IDENTITY, with unspoken beliefs about the character, value, and intelligence of a person as judged by one individual or group against another. There is LEGITIMATE authority and leadership, with Jesus as the HEAD over all of it!
7. The problem of **racism** being so blatant and injurious in our country is NOT the fault of secular society, but of the absence of light and salt by the church! Most of the church that calls itself Christian has lost its saltiness, “*only good to be thrown out on the road and trampled upon.”* (Matt 5:13) Almost every major evangelical denomination now ordains homosexuals and is permissive to sin. It stands FOR nothing, and it stands AGAINST nothing! In the name of political correctness, it has coalesced so completely to sinful society and has no power to bring any real change. It has lost its purpose of being light and salt in the world, to be IN the world, but not OF the world.
8. When we lose sight of how **Racism** fits into the larger picture of evil in sinful man, we become enraged and entitled that anyone should have such an attitude. WE try to fight **racism** with more racism, to fight hatred with more hatred, to do the tit for tat game, an eye for an eye kind of response. Everything escalates into war and self-destruction once again. Supposed ‘anti’-racist groups are telling people of any other race but Black, that they should hate themselves, hate America, and be ashamed of THEIR ethnic origin. ONLY Black Lives matter, to them! But THEIR hatred is NOT racism (or so they think); they believe it is justifiable, and they are entitled to take back everything they perceive was stolen from them. That is the human condition when we respond only by the flesh, with a heart of vengeance, violence, and vindictiveness.
9. Our current culture in America wants to celebrate “diversity” by labeling everyone’s ethnic origins and where they came from geographically. In this attempt, they do NOT celebrate unity or oneness or the fact that we are ONE nation. The emphasis is on what makes us DIFFERENT, NOT on what makes us alike. The whole philosophy can ONLY create DISUNITY AND DIVISION! When people already have a natural fear of anyone who is DIFFERENT than themselves, how are they to trust “Diversity”? And that’s just the skin color, not even a person’s ideology or belief system! Why are we African-Americans or Hispanic-Americans or anything else? If that was the case, why can’t Irish or German or Russian or Norwegian or British or a host of other “white” Americans celebrate THEIR cultural heritage? It’s total insanity! And it’s **racist** that they are the only people groups who CAN’T celebrate their cultural heritage because they are already judged and labeled as “White privilege”. WHO are the judges? WHO has the right to make such judgments? Should the Asians call themselves Korean-Americans, Chinese Americans? Or how about Mexican-Americans and Brazilian-Americans? HOW is this helpful in any way to heal the wounds of past offenses between different people groups? NONE! BUT Unity and Oneness does NOT mean that good and evil are the same or that moral and immoral are the same! The LGBTQ political agenda is to make people think that evil and immorality are acceptable and normal. They are NOT!!! Perhaps we should call ourselves “Kingdom-Americans” or “Christ-Americans”, since we are truly of a dual citizenship.
10. Look at the whole anti-Semitic, jewish-hating history. Israel was created by God as a people who were supposed to bring light to the world, that the world might know about their beloved creator and be drawn to Him by their light. Instead, they chose to keep Yahweh to themselves, eventually trying to rule the people of Israel with pharisaical legalism instead. The prayers of every Jewish man, every day, was to thank God that he wasn’t born a Gentile or born a woman. Is that not **racism** and sexism at its highest?! Was that ever the heart of God for His creation? NEVER!! Israel had slaves from all sorts of nations as well as being enslaved for 400 years! The fruit that has plagued their history, because of the law of sowing and reaping, is the same hatred, prejudice, pride and rebellion that they displayed to their creator God.
11. When men were trying to create the Tower of Babel they all spoke the same language and were ONE people group. (Genesis 11) They were so filled with pride that they sought to build something that would prove they were as big as God and even more powerful than Him so they wouldn’t have to worship Him or acknowledge Him. To prevent having to wipe all of humanity out AGAIN, God chose to break them up into different languages and people groups so they wouldn’t be able to pursue this road that would have led to the death of all humanity! So here we are, trying to do whatever we can to be in control, to be God and to not have to honor God for His place in our world.
12. The government has NEVER had the role or job of legislating morality, but we seem to think it should. It has the job of leadership and protection of a nation. America is a great experiment in trying to do something that has never been done before, allowing “we the people” to be responsible for governing itself, showing honor and equality to all people, divinely created to work together for peace and prosperity. A lot of things were “assumed” in the language of the founding fathers (such as marriage being between a man and a woman), and much of it was drawn from Biblical truths, more so than any government in the world. Much of the favor America has experienced is because of the laws of sowing and reaping. Where we have agreed with God’s creative purposes, His power and favor are released through our choices and actions. Where we have rebelled against His truth, “calling good evil and evil good” (Isaiah 5), we also experience his DIS-favor and the natural consequences of our choices.

Historically, Charlemagne and Pope Gregory tried to legislate morality by demanding that everyone in His realm become a Christian or they would face dire consequences. All freedom of choice was removed, and only threats and control remained. It is a demand that God himself has never done. When God set before us a choice of whether to love and serve Him, it is ALWAYS a choice. We often say when talking about boundaries, “If you’re not free to say ‘No’, then your ‘Yes’ doesn’t mean anything.” In other words, right from the beginning with Adam and Eve, mankind was given a choice. And though there would be natural consequences to each choice, there was still a choice, to OBEY or DISOBEY. If God were to take away our choice, He would take away our free will and we would not be FREE to choose him or reject Him. He would then become OUR abuser! If we mandate the same kind of control as a society without having a choice, then it would be just another form of systemic control. But each choice comes with consequences and responsibility. One road leads to life, the other leads to death. Choose wisely!

1. Micah 6:8 lays out a directive for us, to “*Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”*

We have been given a mandate to be just and loving, EVEN when we are not treated justly or loving! He is inviting us to a higher road, to BE a different person, NOT like the world and those dominated and infected with the disease of sin and worldliness. It is IMPOSSIBLE unless we have been supernaturally changed! It is NOT natural for us to love one another, or others of different colors and creeds, or even ourselves! ONLY when we are transformed by the blood and love of Jesus Christ is it even a possibility of moving in this direction!

1. Until the church of Christ can learn to function as ONE body, one KINGDOM body, where neither male nor female, jew or gentile (Galatians 3:26-29) or any other divisive distinction is made, THEN , and ONLY THEN, Just Maybe, we might learn to live as people who are not **Racist** by nature and by action! God created us all with unique and needed roles in the body, where each part is valued and essential to health and well-being of the WHOLE body. (Eph 4)
2. **Racism** is a matter of the heart! What’s in our heart? If we have the heart of Christ, then our heart is going to be of love for ALL people, regardless of race, color, or gender. The bigger question may be how we can love people who hate us. Being the fragrance of Christ (2 Cor 2:15-16) can mean that people will despise us, hate us, and reject us because we carry His presence and fragrance. Those who live in darkness HATE the light! If we have a heart of Fear, we will always struggle to trust, making it hard to create true intimacy and unity in any relationship. Jesus was despised and rejected and told us not to be surprised when it happens.
3. But God….! Almost 4,000 times in the Bible! For us to try and fix **racism** apart from His transformative power, grace, and love, just turns into another form of control or manipulation!
4. Healing starts with listening and creating a safe place to share and release the trauma and toxicity, but it also requires a repentance on all our part in how we have cooperated with this spirit or contributed to spreading its divisive tentacles. We have to come in the opposite spirit.
5. RTF goes after the roots of the problem, not just the manifestation. We have to focus on the solution, and not just the symptoms. The symptoms are the smoke trail to the real problem, our belief system of lies and deception and judgments.
6. Forgiveness is STILL the key to healing this disease! Nelson Mandela spoke to that in South Africa, modeling something we have rarely seen in recent history!

Final thoughts:

 Healing for Racism starts with Jesus ministering to the hurt and pain of every heart, one at a time. It starts with us taking personal responsibility for our own choices, beliefs, attitudes, and actions. It begins with a humble heart, submitted to the will of God, and empowered by His Spirit. It requires that every disciple of Jesus take up their sword and fight the REAL fight, against the TRUE enemy of all of humanity made in God’s image. “*For your struggle is NOT against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers of this dark world.”* – Eph 6:12

 SO, does that mean we have to just ‘Turn the other cheek’? or turn a blind-eye to injustice? or to adopt a ‘separatist’-mindset where I remove myself from society and culture and government and leadership all together, so that I don’t get tainted by sin? I believe we have to look to what Jesus modeled as well as the simple truth of “ask, seek, and knock”. (Matt 7:7) The Holy Spirit leads us into ALL truth, showing us the heart of God and empowering us with wisdom and insight.

 Do we truly HATE evil? God instructs us to HATE what HE hates! To HATE evil and to LOVE Good! Are we willing to do the warfare and stand against the evil one? Will we take our post on the wall and be watchmen for HIS kingdom?

 People’s hurts, feelings, traumas, and violations need to be validated, heard, honored, and released in a safe and effective way, that does NOT bring more harm or vengeance to others. That is what Jesus did for US! He is inviting us to do the same! It is a HIGH calling! And it is not for the faint of heart. It requires humility, wisdom, honor, honesty, integrity, diligence, and supernatural strength and grace to stand in the face of such wickedness. I am always encouraged by the truth that God’s kingdom is ever-advancing, and that the enemy was “de-feeted” and “dis-armed” and publicly humiliated by Christ on the cross. (Colossians 2:14-15).

 Take heart, be encouraged, don’t be surprised by the battle we are facing. It is nothing new. But it may feel new for some of us. It is the battle for every one of our hearts and minds. But we are not in this alone! We are a tribe like no other, more powerful and loving and free than any other! As we stand together, we will defeat this foe, and “*demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God…”* (2 Cor 10:5)