

## **Racial Equality**

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Broadcast Dates: 11/6/20 & 11/9/20

Message Date: 6/17/20 • 10:00 A.M.

### **Scripture References**

Matthew 5:13-16

Ephesians 1:20-23, *MSG*

Ephesians 6:12

Ephesians 6:12, *AMPC*

John 13:35

John 13:35, *AMPC*

2 Corinthians 10:4

Luke 6:45

Matthew 20:24-28

Matthew 20:25-28, *AMPC*

James 2:1-13, *MSG*

Philippians 4:13, *AMPC*

### **Summary**

*Equality is a much-used term in the secular world, but in a biblical context, we are all equal when we are one in Christ. Being born again makes us new creations, and causes old divisions and distinctions based on race, nationality, or gender to pass away. Being equal does not mean being the same, but being united as one, despite our differences. When Jesus came, He leveled the playing field for everyone; that means the superiority of men, of Jews, and of the rich was eclipsed by the newness of life in Christ. Today's society is divided and unequal; however, the church can, and should, set the example for others to follow. We can only do this with the help of the Holy Spirit, who teaches us to love others the way Jesus tells us to. In God's eyes, there is only one race—the human race.*

#### **A. Christians must set an example for the world and demonstrate what equality looks like.**

1. Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).
  - a. As the church, we stand apart in a divided world. We need to be the light for others. We can model to the world what newness of life looks like.
2. All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but *forever*. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church. The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence (Ephesians 1:20-23, *MSG*).
  - a. The church should set the example for the world. We should model to others how to treat one another.
3. The enemy is behind the spirit of division in the world. This spirit does not want unity. We are not wrestling against people; our fight is spiritual.

- a. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).
  - b. For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere (Ephesians 6:12, *AMPC*).
- 4. The church has received a charge from Jesus to love others. Therefore, we must not be in a place of dissention and strife.
  - a. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another (John 13:35).
  - b. By this shall all [men] know that you are My disciples, if you love one another [if you keep on showing love among yourselves] (John 13:35, *AMPC*).

**B. Loving the way God teaches us involves following Christ's example. He makes us one.**

- 1. We need the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit to deal with the issues in today's world, and to love others the way Christ commands.
  - a. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds (2 Corinthians 10:4).
  - b. In today's society, ungodly mindsets are widely prevalent. The Holy Spirit teaches us to think differently.
  - c. When we experience God's love for us, we can show that same love toward others. We must first eliminate any self-hatred we may have, however, because how we feel about ourselves will be projected onto others.
  - d. ...For of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh (Luke 6:45).
- 2. During His ministry, Jesus had to deal with negative, divisive mentalities. He taught that to be great, service to others—not domination—was necessary.
  - a. And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:24-28).
  - b. And Jesus called them to Him and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men hold them in subjection [tyrannizing over them]. Not so shall it be among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, And whoever desires to be first among you must be your slave—Just as the Son of Man came not to be waited on but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many [the price paid to set them free] (Matthew 20:25-28, *AMPC*).
- 3. My dear friends, don't let public opinion influence how you live out our glorious, Christ-originated faith. If a man enters your church wearing an expensive suit, and a street person wearing rags comes in right after him, and you say to the man in the suit, "Sit here, sir; this is the best seat in the house!" and either ignore the street person or say, "Better sit here in the back row," haven't you segregated God's children and proved that you are judges who can't be trusted? Listen, dear friends. Isn't it clear by now that God operates quite differently? He chose the world's down-and-out as the kingdom's first citizens, with

- full rights and privileges. This kingdom is promised to anyone who loves God. And here you are abusing these same citizens! Isn't it the high and mighty who exploit you, who use the courts to rob you blind? Aren't they the ones who scorn the new name—"Christian"—used in your baptisms? You do well when you complete the Royal Rule of the Scriptures: "Love others as you love yourself." But if you play up to these so-called important people, you go against the Rule and stand convicted by it. You can't pick and choose in these things, specializing in keeping one or two things in God's law and ignoring others. The same God who said, "Don't commit adultery," also said, "Don't murder." If you don't commit adultery but go ahead and murder, do you think your non-adultery will cancel out your murder? No, you're a murderer, period. Talk and act like a person expecting to be judged by the Rule that sets us free. For if you refuse to act kindly, you can hardly expect to be treated kindly. Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time (James 2:1-13, *MSG*).
- a. We must be attuned to one another and not ignore each other. We should not show partiality.
4. I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency] (Philippians 4:13, *AMPC*).
- a. We need to know that we are equal to the task and ready for anything because of what Jesus did. When we are in Him, we are part of His body, and no longer on the outside.

Category: spiritual growth

Keywords: equality, equal, one, divisions, united, differences, divided, unequal