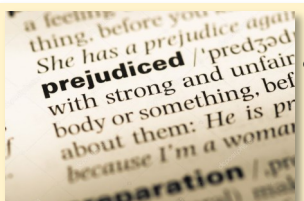


The Blindness of Prejudice



One of the prominent vision issue is the blindness of prejudice. It ruins how we see others and it cripples and limits how we treat others. Prejudice is more than a "race" issue. There are many forms of prejudice and each of them are harmful and blurs our vision.



The word "Prejudice" means to "pre-judge"

- Judging is not completely nor totally _____.
- Determining good influences vs. bad influences is a form of judging
- Recognizing truth and error is a matter of judging
- Evangelism, fellowship and even deciding who is qualified to lead is based upon judgments.

- Prejudice or "pre-judging" is an ill-feeling, not liking a person without any _____, _____ or _____.
- It is judging a person without even knowing.
- Prejudice is an _____ and a _____
- Prejudice _____ and isolates
- Prejudice is often learned in the _____
- Prejudice is thinking too _____ of ourselves and too _____ of others
- Prejudice is more than race. It can be based upon gender, nationality, religion, or lifestyle choices

A. Prejudice isn't new to our times. There are many examples in the N.T.

1. John 1:46 "And Nathanael said to him, 'can any good thing come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'"
2. John 4:9 "The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, 'How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans)."
3. John 8:48 "the Jews answered and said to Him, 'do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?'"
4. John 9:16 "Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, 'This man is not from God, because he does not keep the Sabbath.' but others were saying, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And there was a division among them."

- In the O.T., Jonah was prejudiced against the people of Nineveh

B. How does a person change and get rid of prejudice from their hearts?

1. You realize that everyone person is created in the _____ of God

- Acts 17:25, 26 "...since he Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; and He made from one every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth"



- John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." Jesus died for all people (1 John 2:2).

- Not only are we all in the image of God, but likely we are all related. We all start with 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents, 16 great-great grandparents.

- In just 1,000 years (A.D. 1020) there has been 40 generations and two trillion ancestors.

2. It's hard to manifest the _____ (Matthew 7:12) while holding a hatred and dislike for some

- the great commission includes every person (Mark 16:15)

3. God wants us to do _____ to all people (Galatians 6:10)

- The story of the Good Samaritan illustrates that anyone in need is my neighbor (Luke 10:29-37)

4. God wants us to _____ our enemies and _____ for those who persecute us (Matthew 5:43-44)

The Supreme Examples of Not Being Prejudice:

1. Jesus: who used Samaritans as heroes of His stories

- who chose a tax collector to be an apostle
- who invited Himself to the home of a chief tax collector (Luke 19:1-10)
- who ate with sinners (Luke 15:2)



The Use of Luke as one of the Gospel writers is another example

of the inclusive, non-prejudice nature of God.

- Luke was not an apostle
- Luke was a Gentile

2. The early church (Galatians 3:28)

- three different social barriers are listed
- imagine how hard it would be for a Jew to pass the Lord's Supper to a Gentile, or a master to his own slave
- In Christ you are all ONE
- 1 Peter 3:7 fellow-heir of the grace of life

The Steps Necessary to Eliminate Prejudice from your heart and your home:

1. Realize prejudice, all forms of it, are _____. It is not like God.
2. Drop prejudicial _____ and words that invite prejudice.
 - don't call certain people "dumb"
3. Become _____ blind
4. Desire for _____ to be saved
5. Include in your prayers those who you might _____ pray about
6. Include and invite rather than _____ and isolate
7. Learn how to _____ sin, yet still care and love the _____
8. Develop a forgiving, compassionate _____ like Jesus
9. Don't let the culture of the _____ shape how you see people
 - be willing to go to "Samaria" and invite a "tax collector" among your associations
10. Put into practice simple " _____ " passages
 - Rom 12:10 do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to
 - Phil 2:3 regard one another as more important than yourselves
11. Understand that little _____ pick up on what you say in your home about other people
12. Stop thinking that some are _____ than others. We are all in this together. We all need Jesus.
Every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.

