



**GETTING THROUGH TIMES:  
PREJUDICE, RACISM AND  
DISCRIMINATION**



**“I CAN'T BREATHE!”**





## **DIVERSITY**

of people,  
perspectives



## **EQUITY**

in policy, practice  
& position



## **INCLUSION**

via power, voice &  
organizational culture



## 1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

## Galatians 3:28

"There is neither Jew nor Greek,  
slave or free, male nor female, for  
you are all one in Christ Jesus".

# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

## PREJUDICE

Assigning meaning or value to a person, group, or thing before knowing anything about it

## DISCRIMINATION

Acting on prejudice and treating a person or group of people unfairly because of things like race, age, or sex

## RACISM

Systems of advantage and disadvantage based on race

# BE HONEST



- **Not Limited to a region, race or culture**
- **Lack of Knowledge**
- **Learned Traits**
- **Grounded in Power, Fear & Tradition**



# Origin of Mindset

Mark 7:21-23

For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person.”

# Matter of Motives

Greek for Judge: *krino* (to judge)

James 2:2-4

Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

# **Jesus's Day: Prejudices, Racism & Discrimination**

- **Cultural: Jews and Samaritans**
- **Political: Roman Government Rule**
- **Religious: Pharisees and Sadducees**

## The Sadducees

- Belonged to the privileged minority and had the power of the law on their side.
- Ruled in the Temple.
- Recognized the authority of the five books of Moses only.
- Did not believe in the resurrection. (Acts 23:8 as well as in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.)

## The Pharisees

- Represented the working-class and had the power of the people on their side.
- Ruled in the synagogues.
- Recognized all the writings of the Old Testament, plus oral tradition.
- Believed in the resurrection.

# **The Answer**

**Christianity teaches that all people are equal in the eyes of God and should not be treated unfairly. The Bible condemns prejudices, racism and discrimination. Jesus' teachings demonstrate how to treat others with dignity, respect and love.**

# Making It Plain

- **Genesis 1:27: God created all people in His image, and cares how we treat each other**
- **Acts 10:34-35: God accepts people from every nation who fear Him and do what is right**
- **1 Corinthians 12:13: We were all baptized by one Spirit to form one body**
- **James 2:9: Showing favoritism is a sin**
- **Revelation 7:9-10: A great multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language stand before the throne**

# What To Do

- **Seek Knowledge, Clarity and Understand**
- **Advocate, Build, Honor, Support**
- **Respect Diversity...Being Different Does not Mean One is Wrong**
- **Aware: Fear can lead to prejudice, which can be based on competitiveness, cultural erosion, or personal experiences**

# **Jesus Christ in the Unifier**

**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.**



# **Getting Through the Tough Times:**

**Your Inadequacy Is Not a  
Disqualification**