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There is No Place For Prejudice and Racism

“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.”

1 John 4:20

People naturally gravitate towards those who look like them, think like them, speak like them, and believe like them.

This isn't always a bad thing. However, if we only surround ourselves with people who are like us, we miss opportunities to love those who may not fit into our box.

There is a story that explains this well in the Gospel of John. One day, Jesus came across a Samaritan woman at a well and asked her for a drink. She responded to Him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” The latter part of the verse helps us realize Jews did not associate with Samaritans (John 4:9).

This Samaritan woman wasn't someone a Jewish person would usually interact with. In fact, Jews and Samaritans hated each other. Their rivalry went back over 700 years. But Jesus, by asking this Samaritan woman for a drink of water, showed His followers that every person is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

At a time when other Jews refused to interact with Samaritans, Jesus put love for God and neighbor above racist beliefs and prejudices. Jesus stepped over barriers because He believed in showing love to all people. As a result, this woman heard about the love of Jesus and invited other Samaritans to hear Him as well (vs. 28-30).

Jesus showed us that there is no place in the heart of a believer for prejudice or racism. So, what can we do about it?

1. Pray and ask God to reveal any prejudice in your heart – Confess it to God, and ask Him to replace your prejudice with love for your neighbor.
2. Build relationships with people who don't look like you – Like Jesus and the Samaritan woman, try to have conversations with people who've had different life experiences from yours.
3. Extend grace and forgiveness – No one is perfect, and if we want to move past prejudice, then we will have to forgive others, as well as ourselves.
4. Celebrate differences with a Revelation 7:9 point of view – In a vision of heaven, John said, “After this, I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.”

Written by Bryant Wright, Founder, RFTH Ministries, www.rightfromtheheart.org

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Men's Bible Studies

Men, our Wednesday night schedule of Small Groups begins this Wednesday. We have two Men-Only groups, The Intentional Father and the Real Men study, plus other co-ed Midweek groups available. Join us this Wednesday at 6:00pm. We'll have volunteers available to help you find the group that's right for you!

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Man Church this Sunday!

Man Church is this Sunday, August 28 at 6:00pm in the Student Building. Our guest speaker is Dean Inserra, the Lead Pastor of The City Church in Tallahassee, Florida. Come early at 5:00pm to enjoy free frozen custard from Culver's! Bring an unchurched friend, co-worker or neighbor to hear a great message of inspiration and challenge. That's this Sunday, the 28th, in the Student Building. Free frozen custard at 5:00pm and Man Church at 6:00pm.

[Learn More](#)

For more info on how to get involved with Men of Shades, visit www.shades.org/men

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