



Sermon Title: Spirit and Prejudice

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: “and He (God) made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist ...” [Acts 17:26-28a NASB]

1. The Holy Spirit often leads us to hard places where we initially don't wish to go!
2. People under the influence of sin feel a need to believe they're superior to someone else. (Romans 12:2-6)
3. Prejudice is often found in Jesus' disciples.
4. Until prejudice is confessed and abandoned it severely limits the Spirit's work and our witness.
5. When prejudice can't be open it usually goes underground.
6. God has no favorites! The ground is level at the foot of the cross! (Romans 10:12, Galatians 3:26-28)
7. “The Christian gospel is fundamentally incompatible with racial prejudice.” (Dr. King)
8. No one has suffered as much blind prejudice as God!
 - Remember, the battle against prejudice is a spiritual battle that calls for spiritual weapons.
 - Remember, when our faith makes us feel we're better than someone else, that feeling comes from the devil – not from God.
 - Seek to emulate Jesus' treatment of others.
 - Ask the Spirit to reveal your heart. (Psalm 139:23-24)
 - Don't return evil for evil. (1 Peter 3:9)
 - Intentionally seek relationships with those of other ethnicities. Distance and isolation are fertile soil for prejudice.
 - Listen to understand and learn, rather than talking to lecture or defend.
 - Realize some will not welcome your efforts, but Jesus will bless them!

Growth Group Questions
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KICK-OFF

1. Briefly share your favorite memory from this summer.
2. What are you looking forward to as we begin a new Growth Group year?

THE GAME PLAN

1. Share about a time when the Holy Spirit led you somewhere you didn't want to go.
2. In what ways have you encountered or witnessed prejudice within the church? How did it make you feel?
3. Share about your experience with confronting and abandoning prejudice in your own life. How has God shaped your attitude and mindset over the years?
4. What points from today's sermon challenged you, impacted you, or caught your attention and why?

OVERTIME

1. In what ways have you been tainted by prejudice in the past? How has God helped you to overcome it?
2. Which of the 8 "intentional behaviors" resonated with you as something you can immediately exercise to help combat prejudice?

