

PREJUDICE

Request – All of a sudden prejudice toward a certain type of person has erupted in me. This prejudice attitude has upset me because on the one hand I feel justified yet on the other hand I feel it is wrong. Would you please do a study on it?

This lesson will study SEVEN aspects of the doctrine of Prejudice with emphasis on how to over come your struggle with it.

1. The English dictionary defines prejudice as an unfavorable opinion formed beforehand with no basis except personal feelings.

The Greek word for prejudice is prokrima. It refers to pre-judging or bias. “Preferring one person while putting another aside by unfavorable judgment due to partiality.” (Vines)

All forms of judging was sternly warned by Jesus (Matt.7:1-5) and Paul (1 Cor.4:1-5; Gal.2:4-6) and James 2:1-9.

2. Legalistic Pharisaism encouraged prejudice as a religious right.

For example, they were prejudice to Matthew because of his profession in life (Luke 5:27-32) [Imperial tax collector for Rome among the Jews]. They associated his sinfulness with his work rather than AOS (Rom.5:12).

They established a prejudice list in the Tradition of the Elders of people, ethnic groups, types of work, and spiritual standing (Matt.23:25-28; Mark 7:1-8, 13).

3. Legalistic Pharisaism established categories of sinfulness (worst sinner syndrome).

Jesus pushed the prejudice envelope with Zaccheus in Luke 19:2, 7-10 and sinful woman in Luke 7:36-39.

“And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples. ‘Why is your Teacher eating with the **tax-gathers and sinners?**’” (Matt.9:11)

4. Prejudice legalism is still being perpetuated in the Church (James 2:1-9).

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus.**” (Gal.3:18)

What are some forms of prejudices in the 21st century church?

5. Principle: All of mankind is in the same spiritual status at physical birth and at spiritual birth.

Physical birth - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.” (Rom.3:23-24; 5:12)

Spiritual birth – “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:12-13)

Therefore, spiritual advancing believers must learn to view all men from their spiritual status with God.

“And opening his mouth, Peter said: ‘I must certainly understand **now** that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him.’” (Acts 10:34-35; Rom.2:11; Gal.2:6)

Spiritual arrogance regarding God’s grace perpetuates prejudices in CWL – “But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.” (1 Cor.15:10)

6. Prejudice is mental attitude sin and must be confessed according to 1 John 1:9.

“But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and convicted by the law as transgressors.” (James 2:9)

The spiritual advancing believer must learn to walk in the filling ministry of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Gal.5:16, 22-23) [fruit of Spirit]

“But the greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.” (Matt.23:11-12)

7. Prejudice is old man cosmos diabolicus and confession of it as sin will not remove it from your belief system (Matt.9:1-7).

“Have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?” (James 2:4)

“That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.” (Eph.4:22-24; James 1:21-24)

Transformed Christian Way of Life (CWL)

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Rom.12:2)