

Sermon Notes

“The Distraction to Our Freedom”

Sunday, July 5, 2020 – AM Services

Text: Ephesians 2:13-18

INTRODUCTION

□ The **United** States of America is quickly becoming the **Divided** States of America.

The Answer to the Distraction to Our Freedom

I. LISTEN WITH CONCERN

□ James 1:19-20 – “Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

□ One of the last things Jesus prayed about before He died, unity for His followers.

- John 17:11 – “...that they may be one, as we are one.”
- John 17:21 – “...that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
- John 17:22 – “...that they may be one, even as we are one:”
- John 17:23 – “... that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me...”

Ethnocentrism is the belief in the inherent superiority of one’s own ethnic group or culture.

God **hates** division.

- Romans 16:17-18 – “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”

II. LOVE WITH COMPASSION

John 4:9

“Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.”

Don't be so committed to your own race that you operate out of your own Christian faith.

THE GOSPEL BREAKS DOWN BARRIERS

John 13:34 – “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

III. LEAD WITH COURAGE

You influence others by what you do. So – make sure you **stand** and do what you **should do**.

Racism makes Jesus Christ look bad.

- Truth overrides tradition.

“ “ color.

Culture and color **must not** overrule the faith.

Let me let you in on a secret from God's Word.

- * Whatever race you are now is the race you will be in Heaven.

Revelation 7:9 – in Heaven – “...every nation – kindred – people – tongues stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes...”

Application Guide

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Read: Ephesians 2:13-18

INTRODUCTION

What causes disunity in our country?

What causes disunity in churches?

What causes disunity in your home?

I. LISTEN WITH CONCERN

Read James 1:19-20

Why is it important to be quick to listen and slow to speak?

How with this principle make a difference in your relationship with your spouse, parents, siblings, coworkers, neighbors, etc.?

Read Romans 16:17-18, what does God **hate**?

II. LOVE WITH COMPASSION

Read John 4:9-26

How did Jesus show compassion to the woman at the well?

How do we show compassion to people that are different than us?

How does the gospel affect change and create unity?

Read John 13:34, how are we to love other people?

III. LEAD WITH COURAGE

What is one thing you can do to bring unity to your marriage?

What is one thing you can do to bring unity to your relationship with your parent or sibling?

What are some ideas that you can do as a family to love your neighbor?

Memorize James 1:19-20 together and put it into practice starting this week.