

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...”