

# Overcoming Prejudices

August 7, 2016

## Unity in the body of Christ (1Cor 12:12-27)

### One body with many members (1Cor 12:12-14)

12 For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

### Members have different functions, all are necessary and needed (1Cor 12:15-21)

15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

### God has made the body, giving more honor to that member which is: (1Cor 12:22-24)

(weaker, that which lacks, less honorable, less presentable)

22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked,

### One another - Give honor by: (1Cor 12:25-26)

(caring, suffering, honoring, rejoicing)

25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

### Conclusion: (1Cor 12:27)

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

## Prejudices are barriers to unity.

Prejudice = to judge before

### Jesus confronted the prejudices in His day

1. **His apostles were a mixed group** (tax collectors, fishermen, etc.)
2. **He honored women** (they were close to Him and ministered to Him)
3. **He made a Samaritan** (the good Samaritan) **a hero**.

### Common Jewish prayer in the days of Jesus

"Praise be God that He has not created me a Gentile. Praise be God that He is not created me a woman. Praise be God that He has not created me a slave or an ignorant man."

## Seven kinds of prejudices

### 1. Racial (Ethnic)

Eph 2:11-22 - Jesus broke down every barrier of dividing wall between people.  
(Est 3:5-14; 7:4; Ezr 4:15-16; Neh 4:1-4; Dan 3:8-12; 6:3-9,13)

### 2. Gender (male-female)

Jesus respected women and talked to them as individuals with spiritual understanding. This was a considerable deviation from the cultural norm of the time.

Jesus ministers to a woman at Jacob's well (Jn 4; 4:27).

Jesus sends Mary Magdalene (former prostitute) to tell the apostles of His resurrection (Jn 20:17).

### 3. Economic (rich/poor, slave/free)

Jas 2:3-4 and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? (Jas 2:1-13)

### 4. Age (young/old)

1Sam 16:1-13 when Samuel anoints David as the new King of Israel, his father doesn't even call David to stand before Samuel.

1Tim 4:12 Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.

### 5. Education (educated degrees/uneducated)

Jn 7:48-49 "No one of the rulers or Pharisees has believed in Him, has he? 49 "But this crowd which does not know the Law is accursed."

### 6. Sectarianism (between denominations or independent churches)

1Cor 1:10-17 each one is saying, "I am of ..."

### 7. Cultural (on grounds of outward appearance or behavior)

Jn 1:46 Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"  
(2Sa 14:25; Eccl 9:16; Jn 8:15; Rom 14:1, 3, 10, 13; 1Cor 4:5; Gal 2:6)

## We need to confront our prejudices

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any area of prejudice
2. Bring these to the cross and confess them as sin.
3. Renounce and declare that you are dead to \_\_\_\_\_ through the cross of Jesus Christ.
4. Seek to bridge the gap .  
Ask God to give you someone to relate to that matches your area of prejudice.