

### Prejudice and Racism

#### Galatians 3:26-29, Luke 6:37-38

**Prejudice:** preconceived judgment or opinion; an adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge.

Racism: prejudice or discrimination directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.

How does God's word speak regarding the reality of prejudice within me and my culture?

1. Prejudice has no place among Christians because racial, economic, and gender barriers, and all other perceived inequalities, are removed in Christ. Galatians 3:26-29



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When I am made a part of Jesus Christ, all the divisions and prejudices that matter so much in the world are abolished.

God does not value one race or ethnicity over another. All humans must be treated in light of God's love in Christ.

God does not value people for their economic contribution to society. Christians are not to contribute to the economic or physical oppression of humans or show favoritism to the wealthy.

God does not value males over females. Christians are not to treat women as inferior or exclude them from taking their Godgiven place in the body of Christ.





Women occupy more than half of all management and professional positions, and 26.8% of all CEO positions But...women represent only 4% of Fortune 500 CEOs and only 16.9% of the Fortune 500 board seats and a mere 14.6% of the **Fortune 500 executive officer** positions.

**Christians are liberated from** the demonic forces of racism, materialism, and sexism, not because we conform to the political correctness of the world, but because we are all made new in Christ.

# How do I need to repent from my prejudices regarding race, socioeconomic status, and gender?

2. Jesus warns prejudiced Christians they will be judged by the same harsh, judgmental standards they apply to others. Luke 6:37-38

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## "Do not judge" -**Christians will not** form negative judgements about a person's merit, worth, or value.

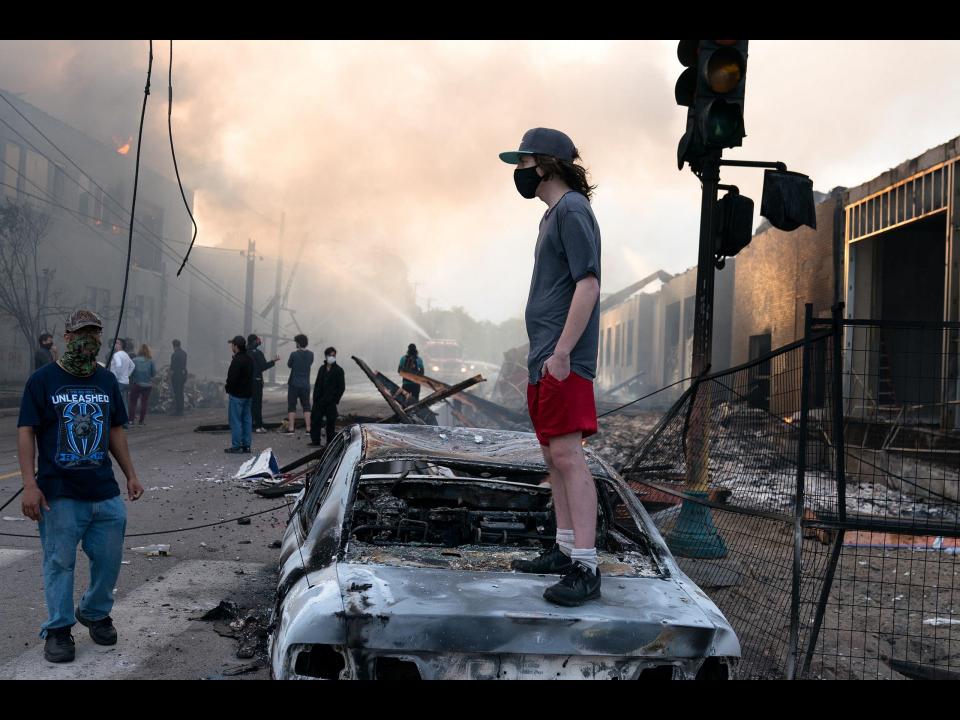
Jesus forbids "status by negation," feeling better about myself by seeing others as worse; arrogance and hostility to the worldly and morally lax, viewing such people as beyond God's reach.

"Do not condemn" -**Christians will pursue God's** redemptive purposes for all people, seeing God's possibilities for each person regardless of his or her sinful actions.

#### **Christians will forgive** and express to others the depth and breadth of the mercy of God they experience in Christ.

Jesus promises that those who are generous in these matters will receive generosity from God.





How do I allow the undeserved love and forgiveness I receive from Christ to shape my response to others who may not deserve it?

I invite you to allow the Lord to speak to you about those barriers in your mind and in your heart that serve to divide people rather than unite them together.



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I invite you to allow God to shape your words and actions into Christ-like response toward those who may not deserve it.



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