

Sunday, June 11, 2023—Galatians 3:28-29 Ye Are All One in Christ Jesus

Opening Thoughts on Equality

- Equality is a word that we hear a lot about in our day. Unfortunately, our national history has been filled with injustices that do not match the founding ideals of the Declaration of Independence. African Americans, immigrants during the 1920's, Japanese during WWII, Native Americans and, more recently, Arab Americans have all been discriminated against.
- The single reason why such social injustices take place is sin. Sin affects one's entire outlook on life. From a human sense, we can look and see all of the ways men are not equal. Some people are smarter than others, have more money than others, young or old, tall or short, etc.
- There are really only two ways that all men are equal with each other.
 - One, men are born sinners and thus separated from the life of God.
 - Two, the only place men are truly considered equal is in Jesus Christ.
- We are going to see how in Christ, all the dividers of mankind are stripped away and there is true equality.

Galatians 3:28

- **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.**
- Those who have been baptized into Christ and who have been clothed in Christ lose their physical distinctions in the Body of Christ. By means of baptism by the Holy Spirit, all believers of all races and both sexes, regardless of who they are, lose their physical identity and are placed into the Body of Christ.
- Colossians 3:11—This “new man” that we have “put on” is not only “renewed in knowledge” but it is a place or location, note the use of the word “where” at the beginning of verse 11. The place “where” the new man has been put on is in the body of Christ.
- There is only one place where racial, national, social, and economic distinction are erased. That is the body of Christ.
 - Greek—is a translation of the word *hellēn*. This word is used sometimes to refer to Gentiles under the influence of Greek culture (Acts 11:20; 14:1) or Greeks by nationality or descent. Other places the word is used to include all races apart from the Jews i.e., gentiles (Acts 20:21; Rom. 1:14, 16, 2:9-10, 3:9)
 - Barbarian—these were the uncultured opposite of Greeks (Rom. 1:14, Acts 18:2, 4). They were a people who lacked the ability to communicate in the common language (I Cor. 14:11).

- Scythian—or an inhabitant of Scythia which correlates with the modern territory of Russia. Apparently, the Scythians were looked upon as the wildest of the barbarians.
- Bond nor Free—there are no slave and free man distinctions in the body of Christ. All social and economic barriers have been done away. The servant and the master are both to serve Christ (Eph. 6:5-9)
- Colossians 1:23, 28—Paul preached his gospel to “every creature which is under heaven” i.e., every type of person that would listen. Only in the body of Christ are all of the things that divide men in the earth erased. The body of Christ has any every man ministry.
 - I Corinthians 6:10-11
- Ephesians 2:11-12—God dealt with the world in “time past” based upon a distinction between Jew (circumcision) and gentile (uncircumcision).
- Ephesians 2:13-15—the body of Christ is the “new man.” As believers our identity is enveloped in Christ.
 - II Corinthians 5:16-17—this new creature is one where all physical distinctions have been obliterated. This, of course, does not mean that men are not men and women are not women.
 - Colossians 3:9-10—when the believer “put off the old man” and “put on the new man” he/she literally “put on Christ.”
 - Galatians 3:26-28—putting on the “new man” is synonymous with putting on Christ. Notice that for those who have “put on Christ” there is unity and not division in verse 28.
 - Add male and female to the list of distinctions that divided men in the earth that have been done away in Christ.
- Ephesians 2:16-18
- I Corinthians 12:12-13, 18, 24—God has taken this group of misfits and placed them into the body as it hath pleased him.
- Colossians 3:11—you are one with every other member of the body of Christ. There are no racial, national, cultural, or economic differences in the body of Christ.
- Colossians 3:1-2—as members of the body of Christ our affection needs to be set on things that are above not on the things that divided men in the earth.

- Romans 12:2—we need to renew our minds about this because the world comes at us emphasizing how these very things divide us. When need to view the situation the way God does.
- Colossians 1:18—Christ is the preeminent one in all things.
- Colossians 3:12—the solution to what plagues us found in the body of Christ practically putting on Christ and walking in our new identity.
- Galatians 3:28—we are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29

- **And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**
- When we finally reach the last verse of the chapter, we see the point Paul has been driving at the entire time. The man who exercises faith in Christ receives justification, righteousness, eternal life, and the Holy Spirit as part of a spiritual inheritance that began with Abraham's imputed righteousness in Genesis 15.
- We are Abraham's spiritual seed because the seed of verse 16 was Christ. In Christ, believers are one Spirit and one Spirit put them into Christ apart from water baptism or heathen sacraments. If you are in Christ, you are entitled to the spiritual promises that God gave to Abraham. The Body of Christ is the spiritual seed of Abraham.
 - Galatians 3:6-9
 - Galatians 3:16