



Does the Bible Support Racism? (Part II)

Titus 3:1-2: (NRSV) *¹Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone.*

Special Guests: Jerry Brunson and Ron Mitchell from the Soul Tempo Singers



A few weeks ago we began a conversation about racism and its origins. We talked about the mythical "Curse of Ham" which led to a mythical subduing of the black race. All of that said, we also looked at some history and effects of racism over the last 1,500 years and asked plainly, does God show any kind of a racist approach to humanity? This week we want to continue looking at this difficult and sensitive subject through the lens of scriptural understanding and truth.

Please see our program from January 18, 2015 entitled, "**Does the Bible Support Racism? (Part I).**" First, a quick review from Part I:

recap
recap

(Source: Blog "The Origins of the Curse of Ham," by Jeremy Pierce, April 22, 2008)

...The people who first came up with this justification for slavery of Africans were very early Muslims, and that view was dominant within the Islamic world (but not outside it) for 100 years until it spread to Europeans via eventually colonial Americans began to adopt it. So it wasn't even initially a misreading of the Bible. The relevant parts of the Qur'an don't mention Ham at all, so it's not even a misreading of the Qur'an. It's simply a fabrication in order to justify the kind of slavery Muslims had been imposing on black Africans.

To understand this "Curse of Ham" business, we need to establish the context.

What is unusual about this text?

Genesis 9:18-19: (NASB) *¹⁸Now the sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem and Ham and Japheth; and Ham was the father of Canaan. ¹⁹These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.*

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Why is only one of Noah's 16 grandsons, Canaan, mentioned here?

Continuing: Genesis 9:20-23: (NASB) *²⁰Then Noah began farming and planted a vineyard. ²¹He drank of the wine and became drunk, and uncovered himself inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon both their shoulders and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were turned away, so that they did not see their father's nakedness.*

This is a good lesson in generational respect and honoring our mothers and fathers.

There was a mockery and disrespect displayed on the part of Ham:

Genesis 9:24-27: (NASB) *²⁴When Noah awoke from his wine, he knew what his youngest son had done to him. ²⁵So he said, **Cursed be Canaan;** A servant of servants he shall be to his brothers. ²⁶He also said, **blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem;** And let Canaan be his servant. ²⁷May God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant.*



We found that Noah, in fact, cursed Canaan prophetically as he and his posterity became very evil and were eventually wiped out. We also confirmed that Canaan had nothing whatsoever to do with the black race. However, this concept was used to justify the evil of slavery.

God DID choose who He would bless. God favors those who follow and obey Him.

Abraham - another "favorite" of God was given the first promise of unique far-reaching favor:

Genesis 12:1-3: (KJV) *¹Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Why was Abram given this unprecedented promise? He was willing to follow God!

Abram would be tested on his dedication, especially with the test regarding Isaac:

Genesis 22:18: (NKJV) *In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.*

So, if God favored people, how did He treat those who were *not* favored?

God's direction gives a blanket command of compassion upon the less fortunate:

Leviticus 19:9-10: (NASB) *⁹Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest. ¹⁰Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.*

God's direction gives a very general application and focus on the individual rights of each man:

Exodus 21:16: (NASB) *He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death.*

God's direction inherently contains the warning against all abuse:

Exodus 21:26-27: (NASB) *²⁶If a man strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he shall let him go free on account of his eye. ²⁷And if he knocks out a tooth of his male or female slave, he shall let him go free on account of his tooth.*

God's direction presents common respect for all men:

Leviticus 19:33-34: (NASB) *³³When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. ³⁴The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God.*

God's direction instructs compassionate treatment of all:

Deuteronomy 5:14: (NRSV) *But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work--you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. (Slaves mentioned twice to make the point of compassion!)*



God's direction allows the people of Israel to live in a world of sin and deal with other peoples who would have been enemies in a firm way, yet with all of the above requirements:

Leviticus 25:44-46: (NASB) *⁴⁴As for your male and female slaves whom you may have—you may acquire male and female slaves from the pagan nations that are around you. ⁴⁵Then, too, it is out of the sons of the sojourners who live as aliens among you that you may gain acquisition, and out of their families who are with you, whom they will have produced in your land; they also may become your possession. ⁴⁶You may even bequeath them to your sons after you, to receive as a possession; you can use them as permanent slaves. But in respect to your countrymen, the sons of Israel, you shall not rule with severity over one another.*

This was society in those days, with no middle class. Indentured servitude gave people the opportunity to stay alive. God gave Israel guidelines on how to handle this situation. In exchange for work, slaves were given food, shelter and respectful treatment. Notice, there is no provision to sell the slave - permanency yes, for sale, no. Why? Citizenship has its advantages as well as the circumstances of war and crime:

(Source: McClintock and Strong's Bible Encyclopedia) (II.) Non-Hebrew Slaves. (1.) The majority of non-Hebrew slaves were war captives, either the Canaanites who had survived the general extermination of their race under Joshua, or such as were conquered from the other surrounding nations (<043126> Numbers 31:26 sq.) ... And others may have been resident foreigners who were reduced to this state either by poverty or crime.

Servitude in the Old Testament under the Jewish Law was a way for less fortunate people to survive and thrive in society. There were even provisions made for those who never wanted to leave their masters because they loved them so much; they could dedicate their lives to service. Imagine you were treated well enough that you never wanted to leave! That was the picture of Old Testament servitude. That is not the same as today.

**So, how do these guidelines change in the New Testament?
Is there a new way and a new message?**

John 8:32: (NASB) *and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*



RICK: On the line with us now are Jerry Brunson and Ron Mitchell of Soul Tempo. Good morning, Jerry and Ron! First of all, Jerry and Ron, who are you? Who is and what is Soul Tempo? Let's start with that.

JERRY: Well, Soul Tempo is an inspirational vocal group from New Haven, Connecticut, and we've been around a little over 20 years now. It is just a blessing to be able to spread the gospel to people throughout the country and around the world. It consists of four members. And it's just a blessing what we do. God has truly put us together, and we just enjoy ourselves. We produce

records and write songs. We just go out and share our blessing with people and try to give people hope and words of inspiration through song. That's what Soul Tempo really consists of.



Ron is our personal assistant. Jerry, Kevin, Philip and Tony are the four members that actually sing. Ron takes care of all the business for us throughout our travels. He does a great job in doing that, when we do events and everything like this. He deals with all the stuff and gives us the opportunity to sit back in a dressing room to be able to know everything is secure with sound. Ron helps us organize the contracts and talking. At our concerts, we love to interact with people. Ron coordinates all of that for us.

RICK: Very good. We've got Jerry, who is one of the Soul Tempo Singers. And, Ron, you are a coordinator. How is it that we got to have this conversation today?

JERRY: Well, we met to have a conversation about racism in the world today and how it is affecting people. We had a really good conversation because I think all of us are really concerned about it. And from there you said "we'd love to have you guys as special guests on our show Christian Questions," and we thought that would be great because people need to be aware of what's going on. We wanted to be a part of it because it is part of society. It is part of life and it has to be addressed.

RICK: And here we are. And as I mentioned before this segment, looking through my own personal experiences at the issue of racism, it is an incomplete picture. To get the complete picture, we need to see it through other eyes. I thought of you as really good representatives and examples of what we can do here. When you hear the word racism, how do you define it?

RON: I truly believe racism is an individual or group of individuals that either judge or prejudge an individual or group of people based upon color.

JERRY: Well, I think that the word racism to me is just plain ignorance. I think really it shouldn't even exist because no one is better than anyone and there's no race that is superior to another race. To me it is just plain ignorant. And it really shouldn't exist, but it exists. So, now we've got to figure out a solution.

RICK: I like both of those approaches: An individual or group that judges or prejudices others based on color, and then the other definition is really simple - ignorance. As we were discussing in the previous two segments, the Bible does not tell us to be racist in any way, shape or form. It tells us to treat all people with honor, respect and dignity.

Let us go through our theme Scripture for our program. We are going to keep coming back to this because it really unfolds a lot about the principles of the treatment of other human beings.

Our accountability to God is reflected through all aspects of our life:

Titus 3:1-2: (NASB) *¹Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, ²to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men.*

RICK: That is just a simple scriptural statement that says to us, okay, here is where we are. Our accountability is to God, and it is reflected through all aspects of our life. We are going to get more into the idea of prejudgment in



the next hour. As far as ignorance, as Christians, we really have no excuse to be ignorant of treating others fairly, honestly and with respect.

What do you think is the cause behind or the several causes behind people who have racist attitudes?

RON: I think one thing that causes racism or people to have racist attitudes is fear. A lot of people have fear. And, again, ignorance is not knowing. Any time you don't understand a purpose of a thing, you will abuse, misuse or destroy something. So, I think fear really is a factor in what causes racism.

RICK: Okay, so fear then. In the next segment I am going to share with you some of my own experiences in growing up and learning about racism; dealing with the challenge of two people who were a different color than myself. And I'm going to be very blunt about that, but fear definitely plays into the picture.

JERRY: Racism to me is lack of knowledge because people have not been taught correctly in some aspect of their life. That's where it gets physical, because God is all about love. And so a lot of people are not protected under nature's umbrella, and a lot of people don't have the knowledge. Everybody was a child at some point. A child isn't born and all of a sudden he's a racist. The problem is the lack of knowledge, because the people in the household are not teaching the kids the right way to grow up.

RICK: All right. So we've got a lack of knowledge and ignorance and fear. We've got all of these things, and none of them sound good. But they are all very pervasive. And the amazing thing to me is, when you look at society and how much knowledge there is about so many things, how is it that this issue seems to remain in the dark? Any thoughts on that?

JERRY: Well, I think it remains in the dark because people are not talking. People are not sharing all the goodness. Some people have so much hatred in them because of how they grew up, and they bring it to their kids.

It goes back to if they have a lack of knowledge. And what we have to do is try to figure out a way in 2015 how to overcome this because it's really embarrassing for one race to hate another race where in this whole society God just wants us to live. And it's just that simple.

RICK: And you know what? I like that thought, it's embarrassing! And you know what? It *is* embarrassing. Jerry, you mentioned one of the reasons you think racism exists is that people aren't talking. Well, here we are, and we're going to talk about it.

JERRY: Exactly. It has to be addressed. That's the only way to put ourselves in a position to help solve it. And we have to start with one person at a time. If we can change one person's mind and get that person to change other people's minds...but we have to build on that. We need a foundation to kind of build on it. It's already out of hand, but it could get more out of hand if something doesn't happen today. Every day is a new day for everybody.

RICK: Begin to feed that idea of getting knowledge out and knowledge in place.



This is God's proclamation through the Apostle Paul on how people should be seen one to another:

Galatians 3:23-29: (NASB) ²³But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. ²⁶For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

JERRY: It is right there written in black and white. That is why it is this way with "worldly" people in the secular world. If everyone was under God's umbrella, everyone would know this.

RICK: Just before we get back into our conversation, I just want to take a moment and go into a little bit about Soul Tempo. What albums have you cut and what appearances have you made that people can identify with?



JERRY: Yes, we have a CD called, "Doing Our Father's Business." We just finished our latest CD entitled, "Trust in God." It came to number 20 on the national billboard chart.

We've performed in the movie, *The Preacher's Wife*, with Denzel Washington and Whitney Houston.

RICK: You were painters in that movie.

JERRY: Yes. Our title was "Singing Painters." What was amazing was we saw four other guys on set who were painters, too. We asked Penny Marshall, who is Laverne from *Laverne and Shirley*, "Who are the other four guys?" She said, "Those are your doubles." We thought it was somebody else on the set trying to take our job!

RICK: Funny. Stunt doubles for the painters.

JERRY: Exactly. We also worked behind the scenes in the Robert De Niro movie, *A Bronx Tale*. We performed at Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center, Disney. We have done a lot of great things, performed with a lot of great artists. So, it's been a great ride, still is a great ride, and the most important thing is we are having fun.

RICK: That's right and you guys have been on our program before and sang for us. We are going to have you perform again in the future. You guys are awesome.





JERRY: We'll be happy to come back.

RICK: Check out their website, www.soultemposingers.com. Some beautiful music. These guys are a great talent.

Let's get back to our subject though. We were talking about racism.

JERRY: We were just talking about people being underneath God's umbrella and the secular world and how everybody should be united. What really gets me is people who are ungodly and some of these people that are racist, but as soon as something happens to them, they get sick or something drastic happens, they are the first person to say, "Oh, God, can you please help me?" It happens all the time. I see it all the time. I hear it all the time. And, you know, God is always there. So they call on Him then, but then they should call on Him all the time. Don't just be a "one-day God" or a "one-second God."

RICK: That's right.

JERRY: And then you are back to all the negative stuff you do.

RICK: Right. And you're right. It is human nature to go back to the negative stuff, but then when something good happens, we have the opportunity and things can move along.

So, let me ask you, what has been your experience with racism? Have you been really harsh victims of racism? Have you observed it? What has been your experience?

RON: I didn't even know what racism was until I got into high school coming up. Our parents always said, don't go over here, don't go over there in that area because people are racist. We didn't understand what that was. We were just young kids having fun.

But in high school is when we began to really start experiencing some racism by things people would say and some of the things that they would do. But then in college, it kind of intensified. I went to college in Connecticut in New Britain.

I was even in a situation once where myself and about four other individuals were walking down a street in New Britain during daylight, and a Caucasian guy came out of his house with a gun saying, "Get off my street..." I was the first to see the individual. I turned around to run, I happened to fall - tripped over someone's foot and scraped up my hands and my knees and for about a week was in pain - couldn't even get out of bed to go to the bathroom or anything.

But that really intensified during college, which was a surprise to me because it was something I really hadn't experienced on that level other than people saying a few words or just some more things that were done. But that's when I became more aware that there are a lot of people who have sickness in them.

RICK: That's a good way to put it, they have a sickness in them. It is a harsh, harsh sickness because you're looking at somebody from the outside in instead of the inside out and just making assumptions that don't belong.



Jerry, what about you?

JERRY: I'm almost in the same boat as Ron. I grew up in the Hill neighborhood and I didn't see too much racism, and I didn't even see it in high school or middle school.

I do know that my parents have. I was born in South Carolina and came to Connecticut at the age of seven. I know that our parents went through so much of it. They were afraid you couldn't go into certain stores, and there was a certain part of the town you couldn't even go in.

When I got here, Rick, I heard there were some parts of Connecticut that people will tell you don't go on that side of town because people are prejudiced.

My own experience was we were on tour, and we went to, I think it was, Texas. We were on like a 40-city tour and we ended up in Texas. There were a few of us and a couple Caucasian guys. We were leaving a hotel to walk to the store and somebody yelled at us a racist remark. We got called "Oreo cookie" and all that kind of stuff. They were riding in a truck.

But that hit me right to the heart. I was like, "Wow, this is really, really alive!" That was my major, major experience with it. And I'll tell you something, Rick, I'm being honest. When I heard that, because that was the first time I had really heard it so clear, it just went straight to my heart. I was hurt behind that. I was really, really hurt behind that, you know.

And it made me want to go back to the hotel, forget about the food. And I thought about that. I said to myself, why would someone want to hate somebody and call them names and everything like this? And you know what? Here we go...ignorance and lack of knowledge.

RICK: That's right. That's right.

JERRY: But those are my only experiences with this, and I don't like it, to be honest. I don't like racism.

RICK: My own experience with growing up as a white kid and viewing the racist issues is I had some of the fear you were talking about. You talked about one of the causes for racism is fear. When I was very small - as a matter of fact, my grandmother and great-grandmother lived on Asylum Street in New Haven back in the '60s. That's the same street you guys lived on, isn't it?

JERRY: That's exactly right.

RICK: Their address was 61 Asylum Street, and you guys lived down the road. You actually lived at the same time on the same street. But when I was a young kid, my grandmother - my great-grandmother especially - was harassed often by black individuals in the neighborhood. And that made me afraid as a kid.



Now, I want to round that experience out because I had this injection of fear. And you nailed it when you said it is fear, but it is ignorance. It is fear of an unknown and it ends up being a gross generalization.

Having said that with my own experience, I want to round that out and listen to a story my grandmother tells of her youth. This is way before Asylum Street when my grandmother, who passed away about five years ago, was just in grammar school and this was her first experience with people of color.

Christian Questions aired a program on May 17th, 2000, with my grandmother telling stories about her life. We are going to listen to this three-minute story of my grandmother with her first experience with people of color.



 **Christian Questions Program #102, May 17, 2000, Gram's two black friends**

- *(Rick's grandmother, Helen, went to a one-room school at the age of eight years old. There were two African-American little girls that struggled in school. His grandmother couldn't tolerate how the two girls were treated unfairly. She created an altercation on the schoolyard standing up for them.)*

RICK: Even though she had those unfortunate experiences in the neighborhood she lived in, her background was so strong in not caring what somebody looked like on the outside but loving them for what they were on the inside and it went back to her childhood. And that is what carried me through the fear I had when I encountered difficult situations with folks of color.



After that experience where my grandmother essentially beat up all the people who were picking on these two girls, they became fast friends. She tells how they would almost fight over carrying her books home from school every day because they were able to come together. Your reactions to that?

JERRY: Well, I think that's incredible. And I think your grandmother did the right thing. Because at that point, like she said, she's saw something was wrong and that is when her heart stepped in. It was her heart saying something's is not right; let me go help the girl.



RICK: That's right.

JERRY: Your grandmother, when she was telling her story, I was chuckling because, you know what? She did all the right things. And you are supposed to help people! That's what people are lacking today.

RICK: That really is why we have to talk about it. Like you said in the first hour, you have to talk about it so you can realize that it is not a color of a skin, it is the content of a heart that we are really to be focused on.

Because we talk about racism all the time, typically when we think about racism, we think about, to be blunt, white people mistreating black people. Now, does it work both ways? Can it work both ways? Ron?

RON: Yeah, it can work both ways because there are some blacks also who can do the same thing. But usually it is out of hurt. When you've been picked on and just beat down, sometimes you just get to the point where you just get frustrated and say, "You know what? I'm not taking it anymore." All the hurt and anger...you retaliate.

But again, no one is born racist; it is something that you are taught, whether you hear it through the media or through your parents. It can work both ways, but usually it is out of hurt, frustration and anger that caused you to retaliate.

RICK: When there is retaliation, it can come across as being racist on the other side and then you have a bigger mess.

RON: You are absolutely right, Rick. It can. But, see, one thing about racism - it doesn't have a color. It is a lack of information. It is a lack of knowledge. It doesn't have a color. Anyone can be racist, anyone. So, we just have to be careful not to allow it to seep inside your view where it changes your mindset. Racism is like a cancer. It is like a bad cancer that can spread, if you're not careful, inside of you as well.

RICK: A lot of times those kinds of things spread in ways we are not necessarily aware of, but it kind of percolates under the surface.

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."
Mattie Stepanek

RICK: The only way to get to that point is to put it on the table and talk about it.



A caller from Connecticut suggests Mark 3:35: *For whoever does the will of God is my mother and brother and sister.* Blood is thicker than water, it is said. People take pride in their ethnic group and look down on others. Family first. Christ, however, is radically inclusive. Mark 10:37: *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* Jesus calls us to love. It is not based on DNA or tribe. It is family by action. It lifts up, not looks down. "Christian" is opposite of "racist." So, love your relatives and celebrate your festivals, but the blood that matters is that which washes us in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:15: *He indeed died for all so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him.*



RICK: That phrase "radically inclusive" is a call to arms to combat the disease of racism we have been talking about here.

Several weeks ago, we talked about individually dealing with, approaching and combating racist attitudes. There is a four-step process to do that.



Titus 3:1-5: (NRSV) ¹Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone.

RICK: This is enlightenment from a scriptural standpoint. It is saying, okay, remind them they are living in a different environment now because of Christ.

³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, despicable, hating one another.

RICK: See that? It is talking about the very things we suffer in our society today.

⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

RICK: So, there is a scriptural basis of enlightenment saying you were once hateful but now you are learning. You've learned to live and see above that.

Ron and Jerry, we talked about enlightenment in our previous conversation. What does that mean to you, and how would you see that progressing?

JERRY: I see enlightenment of people; it is really lack of knowledge. So, what we have to do is - one person at a time - start enlightening peoples' thoughts and expanding their mindset. We can't do it overnight, but I think once we start to spread the Gospel - and what was just read was absolutely correct - we have to love each other. I think once we start spreading the Gospel, peoples' ears will start to open a little bit more. We just cannot be quiet about this.

A lot of people, some Christians, are so afraid to go out and talk about the goodness of God. How are people going to know the goodness of God if you don't tell them? So, we have to actually enlighten people. There are a lot of people who don't know anything about God; it's up to us to reach these folks. We cannot be afraid. We really have to actually sound the horn, meaning that we have to be a mouthpiece out here to bring people to the light of what is going on.

RICK: So, Jerry, what you're saying is you have to, one person at a time, lead by example. You have to be the mouthpiece for the gospel.



RON: The Bible says when you come into Christ, you are a New Creature. Old things have passed away. Your old nature, your "old man," your old way of doing should be done away with. Enlightenment is letting people be aware that what you *have* done is not right and not what God wants. There needs to be a change.

Many people, even racist people that call themselves Christians, hide behind a cross. They may quote the word of God, but they don't know the God of the word. And you can base that the person's relationship on God will determine what they will do. If a person is really enlightened and understands, they will change. But if people don't change, you have to question their relationship with God and you have to question their relationship with whoever they serve.

But, again, enlightenment is making people aware. Like Jerry said, you can only do it one person at a time. Share, share! It will just spread. People just share the Good News. As we share our music ministry, it begins to spread and people talk about it and it enlightens people and gives them understanding.

RICK: And you know what? Music is an incredible way to make the point of sharing things like that. I want to play the first verse from a song in 1969 the Hollies did. This gives you a sense of exactly what you're saying. You've got to speak out about what's important.



"He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother," (verse one) The Hollies

*The road is long
With many a winding turn
That leads us to who knows where
Who knows when
But I'm strong
Strong enough to carry him
He ain't heavy, he's my brother.*



RICK: That's the enlightenment - understanding "he's my brother." That is what we are talking about here, which brings to us the next point of empowerment.

Let's get the scriptural basis from Titus 3. We have enlightenment; we have the understanding. We are living at a higher standard.

Titus 3:6: *This Spirit He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*



RICK: The Spirit of God moves in our lives to empower us to a higher and better way of living. But do you know what? Everybody doesn't have the Spirit of God. So how do you, Jerry and Ron, empower those around you who maybe are not even interested in Christianity? But you have an opportunity; how do you empower them to rise above the old ways of thinking?

RON: I would say by being an example. Our words, our deeds, our actions, what we do, how we live every day is an example and reflection of who we really are; what we're expressing on a daily basis, the words that we choose to use, things we choose to do, actions, so we just have to be an example. You don't have to go around saying, "I'm a Christian! I'm a Christian!" No, all you have to do is be an example, a walking example that people can see. People will know something about you. They will feel something about you. They will perceive something about you. Just be an example.

RICK: That is such an important thing. When people know there is a difference, they will react to you differently than they would the average person.

JONATHAN: And some people want to be *like* that person *because* of their qualities.

RICK: Because the difference is like a breath of fresh air.

JONATHAN: It is.

RICK: Empowerment, Jerry, when you hear that in terms of this conversation, what does that mean to you?

JERRY: It means leading by example. I can give you an example. There was a movie with Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson called, *A Few Good Men*. Jack Nicholson told Tom Cruise, "I didn't tell you the truth because you couldn't handle the truth."

For some people, I don't go bombard them with the word of God because they may not be able to handle it that way. What I do is set by example. When I get to my office, I'm not cursing. I'm always smiling, always being nice to people. Everybody in the office is paying close attention. When I first got there, they were swearing like a bunch of sailors. But after they see how nice you are to people and how your reactions are, you don't let people get you upset. So, it is the way that you act and carry yourself around others.

One of the girls came by from the office and told me, "You know, Jerry, I talked to my sister and my brother-in-law, and I told them you don't curse and you are always nice to everybody and everything like this." And now I see the reaction in them, but I don't hear it anymore around the office. I don't see the attitude. I don't hear the curses and all that kind of stuff.

RICK: If you live the example of a higher life in everything you do, racism can begin to trickle away. In our personal experiences, live your Christianity even if you're not talking about Christianity. It makes a difference.



How do we help others choose to be inclusive?

JERRY: Our actions are very, very important as Christians, and the bottom line is, it is up to us to set by example. I think people pick up on what is going on. I think that is how we inspire changes in people. Be positive in every aspect. One percent negative, 99 percent positive and that one percent negative always supersedes. We have to make sure we stay positive for people. Make sure they stay on the path and they will begin to follow.

RICK: That's such a powerful, powerful statement. We have to be so on top of living our Christianity. It really makes an enormous difference.

"When we look at modern man, we have to face the fact...that modern man suffers from a kind of poverty of the spirit, which stands in glaring contrast to his scientific and technological abundance; We've learned to fly the air like birds, we've learned to swim the seas like fish, and yet we haven't learned to walk the earth as brothers and sisters..." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

RICK: And that is what we're working on. It really does sum up what we are trying to drive at here. And he was so perceptive.

RON: That was a very powerful, powerful quote. It is amazing how modernized we are and all those things we can do, we can land probes on Mars but something as simple as walking together in unity we can't seem to do or choose not to do. That is keeping our country and our world divided. But I guess there is an opposing force to love, and that is hatred. Racism stems from hatred as well. There is nothing good that can come out of it.

RICK: You're right. It stems from hatred. It stems from fear. It stems from ignorance. Hatred is the extreme part, but ignorance and fear are easy to have living inside of every one of us.

JONATHAN: It is.

RICK: Hatred you work at developing, okay, but fear and ignorance you don't have to work at developing. They are there. They are just there.

JONATHAN: You just have to fight them.



A caller from Connecticut suggests eventually things will work out. Exodus 3:9 when God heard the cries of His people being oppressed and that applies in general. God is colorblind. Eventually He will straighten things out. I guarantee you that! A few sayings: "The road to racism and cruelty is paved with ignorance." And another one I learned from one of my good African-American friends, I was so delighted when she shared this with me. "Hate is the poison we drink and expect the other person to die."

RICK: Let's talk about the third aspect of this process. We have enlightenment, which is such an important basis, and then empowerment, giving someone the ability. But once you do that, they now have a choice. In terms of dealing with racism, it has to be a choice.



Titus 3:7: *so, that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

RICK: See, there is a choice in that verse. You have been justified by His grace; now you have to choose to take that and work it and make it such a part of your life that it permeates everything that you say and do. And, Ron, that's what you were just saying a few moments ago. Talk to us now about choice. How does choice fit into the combating, the getting rid of the racist attitudes in our lives?

RON: I'll say choice is very powerful, and choice is something we have to choose to *want* to do. But then again sometimes people have a struggle with releasing something of old and changing. Change is very difficult for some individuals sometimes, depending on what they are looking to change and how deep it was. Change is a matter of consciousness. It is something you have to *want* to do, and if you are not willing to change, then you will not change.

JERRY: Ron is absolutely correct. It is by choice of people, which is why we have to make sure we are actually putting the word out there spiritually as some people can't understand the other side of everything. That's when they will have a choice. Because if they don't know, they don't know because we have to instill that into them. Rick, that song said it, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother." We have to help.

RICK: That's right. We absolutely have to help. If you continually live the example, the choice for others becomes easier because there is strength in following an example. It doesn't have to be an overt example, necessarily. It can be a covert example, but it is such an important part of our lives.

All in Christ are equal - no matter what their status is otherwise:

1 Corinthians 12:12-20: (NASB) ¹²For 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. ¹³For 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. ¹⁴For the body is not one member, but many. ¹⁵If 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹If they were all one member, where would the body be? ²⁰But now there are many members, but one body.

JONATHAN: We are all "many," but we are also supposed to be "one" in Christ. Everyone has different talents and abilities, and that is good, but we need to work together and fit together so we can honor and glorify our Heavenly Father.



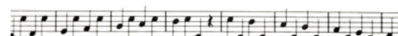
RICK: In the Scriptures, again, we are given the ability to understand the choice. Even if you are a foot and not the hand, and you say, "What good am I? I'm not the hand." That is not the point.

JONATHAN: No. The diversity of the body is a good thing.

RICK: And that is the necessity of a body. If a body is not diverse, by definition, a body cannot function.

JONATHAN: Exactly.

RICK: That is what the Scriptures tell us. That is how you deal with something like racism...you live your life by a higher principle and you be that shining example.



"He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother/You've Got a Friend," Soul Tempo

*So on we go
His welfare is my concern
No burden is he to bear
We'll get there, we'll get there
But now I know
He will not encumber me, no
He ain't heavy, cause he's my brother
See, when the road gets rough
When the goin' gets tough...
I got myself a friend
Lord, I'm so glad I got myself somebody
Got to stand by me to the bitter end
Brother if you need me, call me*

RICK: You guys are awesome. I hear that and it is so, so appropriate in our conversation here today about how to approach this thing. It is really simple, Jonathan. It really is simple. What Jerry and Ron have told us over and over and over again is you make your own choice and you be an example. If you are an example of a higher way of living, people gravitate towards that, maybe very slowly, maybe very quietly, but it is a breath of fresh air in people's lives.



That brings us to our fourth step. We have had enlightenment, which is the place you start. Then there is empowerment once you enlighten. Then people are given the opportunity to choose. Then the fourth step is learn how to live a new life, a new way of life.



Titus 3:8: *The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.*

RICK: That gives us the sense of the new life. When you see "new life," what is it that you think about in terms of the subject matter?

RON: A new beginning, a new opportunity.

JERRY: Change always. Every day is a brand new day, and you can change. You can't bring back yesterday. Everyone has an opportunity to start all over again.

RICK: That's another beautiful thing about the aspect of Christianity, especially. We do have the ability to start over again every day. Every day is a new day. One of the things that we talked about in our previous conversation was too often we label people with these sweeping generalities. In Christianity, the sweeping generality is the love of Christ which covers many things.

JERRY: I think the subject matter is incredible. I think it needs to be addressed all the time. And, Rick and Jonathan, you do an excellent job of spreading the Gospel and spreading the word. We thank you so much. God bless you guys.

RON: We are just so grateful you asked us to be a part of this. We are making an awareness of racism - something prevalent in our society that is destroying our country, not bringing us together but separating us. The enlightenment is such an awesome thing. Thank you guys for what you are doing. You are definitely doing the will of God. We appreciate that.

RICK: You spread the gospel through music, and we spread it through words. We're going to go to our final cut of your version of 'He Ain't Heavy.'



*Brother if you need me, you just call me
All you got to do is call on my name
And I'll know wherever I am
I'll come running, oh yes I will, running
To see you again
Winter, spring, summer, or fall
All you got to do is call
Ain't it good to know
Yes it is, that you've got a friend
Oh Lord, to the bitter end
Everybody come on
Reach out, and touch somebody's hand...Reach out!
Don't be afraid
Reach out, and touch somebody's hand...Reach out!*



**So, does the Bible support racism?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**



**And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!**

Colossians 3:8-15: (NASB) ⁸But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him ¹¹a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all. ¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Interesting side point about Israel's treatment of slaves of their own people:

Deuteronomy 15:12-18: (NRSV) ¹²If a member of your community, whether a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you and works for you six years, in the seventh year you shall set that person free. ¹³And when you send a male slave out from you a free person; you shall not send him out empty-handed. ¹⁴Provide liberally out of your flock, your threshing floor, and your wine press, thus giving to him some of the bounty with which the LORD your God has blessed you. ¹⁵Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; for this reason I lay this command upon you today. ¹⁶But if he says to you, I will not go out from you, because he loves you and your household, since he is well off with you, ¹⁷then you shall take an awl and thrust it through his earlobe into the door, and he shall be your slave forever. You shall do the same with regard to your female slave. ¹⁸Do not consider it a hardship when you send them out from you free persons, because for six years they have given you services worth the wages of hired laborers; and the LORD your God will bless you in all that you do.

- The one who served leaves in the same state as he came in;
- He had a choice right from the start, as he also knew the Law;
- The fact that he could choose to be bound to his master for life indicates fair treatment;
- It is all about the man, as he is the one who is liable for wealth protection and all payments.

The New Testament view on slavery:

Ephesians 6:5-9: (NASB) ⁵Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; ⁶not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. ⁷With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. ⁹And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.



Just as there was a constant reminder of Israel's deliverance from bondage and cruelty to focus the Jews on the respectful care of those in their service, so we have a New Testament constant reminder of our accountability to God for our actions.

Although it wasn't racism as we know it today, the New Testament is full of the experiences of the challenges of melding cultures together under Christ.

Even the Apostles struggled with this!

Galatians 2:11-14: (NASB) *¹¹But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. ¹³The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy; with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. ¹⁴But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?*

The principle of what the Apostle Paul stood for: Because we are all in Christ, we cannot play a game of favoring one culture over another, for that is being untrue to the Gospel.