

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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The Great Equalizer

Dear Friend,

Here we are already coming to the end of the month of June, half way through 2020. No one could have ever guessed that this year would be filled with so much turmoil. We have gone from having one of the strongest economies in history, to shutting it down to the point of being on the brink of depression, and all within a few short months. This was due to a new virus, the coronavirus, which threatened to claim the lives of multitudes of people, unless precautions were taken.

Then, after weeks of chaos due to the pandemic, a white police officer in Minnesota killed an unarmed black man resulting in riots breaking out all across the United States. Now there is civil unrest centered on racial inequality threatening to tear cities apart. The battle cry of the leaders of these riots is the necessity of righting the wrongs suffered by those deemed disadvantaged because of their color.

Cities are being destroyed, businesses are being burned, people are being injured and even killed. Police officers have sadly become the target of those seeking revenge for the murder. Years of underlying tension have bubbled up to the surface and have created an atmosphere where anything can happen at any time.

Racial discrimination and racial inequality have been hot button issues for as long as I can remember. In looking back over the years, it seems as though racial tension has simmered on the back burner until an event like this exacerbates the problem and it boils over the top. Each time this happens it seems to be worse than the last. Let's dissect this problem and see what is the central issue.

The issue seems to be a desire for equality regardless of color or ethnicity. What is often cited as the basis for equality among the different racial groups are the words taken from the Declaration of Independence in which Thomas Jefferson

wrote; “all men are created equal”. So, does equality, as Thomas Jefferson was speaking of, mean that we are all to be viewed as equal: equal in intellect, equal in social standing, equal in appearance? In other words, are we to be viewed as equal in comparison one to another?

Some people are just smarter than other people. So, is the fact that one person is smarter than another person simply to be ignored? Some people are prettier or more handsome than others. Some people work harder and accumulate more money than others. So, is the fact that one person works hard while another person sits at home in front of the television simply to be ignored for the sake of keeping everyone equal? The question then becomes; “How can there be equality with so much diversity?”

It seems as though the idea of **equality among** people is being confused with **equality before** God. In other words, God esteems each of us equally in His eyes even though our natural characteristics are as diverse as you can imagine. Equality before God simply means that He loves each of us equally. God isn't looking at us thinking, “*This man is much more special to Me than that loser over there.*” As human beings, we each stand before God as equal in His sight.

So, even though we stand before God equal we are anything but equal in our natural abilities and characteristics when we compare ourselves to each other. The apostle Paul warned us **not to do this**. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

“For we dare not make ourselves of the number or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.”

No one has a choice as to how smart they are, how handsome or beautiful they are, the color of their skin, or even the family they are born into. If we are looking for **fairness** and **equality** in our birth into this world we are going to be disappointed because there is nothing fair about it. This is why I believe Paul was admonishing us **not to compare** ourselves with one another as we exist in this earth because we are not equal in our physical qualities. As a matter of fact, it's our diversity that makes each of us unique. **When we try to erase what makes us different and force equality our individual liberty becomes the victim.**

For instance, is there a difference between the person born in the family of wealth verses the person born in the family of poverty? Both are viewed before God as having the same value, the value of the price of His Son, while at the same time **not** being equal in natural ability, appearance, or social standing. So,

on the one hand there is absolutely no difference at all before God between the person born in wealth and the person born in poverty. He views both people as equal in His sight. We, on the other hand, do not view each person as equal. Without even thinking about it, we have been trained by society to assign value based on natural ability, intellect, appearance, and social standing.

Take for example a person with absolutely no natural ability and no intellect to speak of who was fortunate enough to be born into the Rockefeller family, who enjoys the benefits of opulent wealth simply by birth. Compare this person to a normal average person who was born into a low-income family and lives in an apartment. In either case, neither one had a choice of which family they were being born into. It just so happened that their mother's egg was fertilized by their father and they were the result. What is fair about that? Nothing! We, as a society have been trained to assign more value to those of such notable families as the Rockefellers and less to those of low income, less notable families.

So, although their value as human beings in the sight of God is the same, they are about as unequal in a side-by-side comparison as any two people could possibly be, and all because of whom their parents were. This idea of equality, the equality being demanded by the rioters in the streets, removes individuality from the equation, which was never the intention of God. Going down that road will eventually lead to socialism, where individuality is erased, and ultimately communism, where the "state" is the only one who really matters and the people are just cogs in a machine.

By trying to put us all on the same level, in an effort to make everything "fair", isn't really fair at all. A free society flourishes because each individual is allowed to pursue their dreams instead of being bound to a socialistic agenda where everyone is treated equally no matter if they put forth any effort or not. This is why governments like the former Soviet Union fail. There's no reward for thinking outside the box.

Maybe you're thinking; "*I want everything to be equally fair.*" Well, because each of us came into this world as a unique individual with unique talents and abilities the idea that we could somehow be equal to one another is simply not possible.

"*Why Mark?*" The fact that we are living in a fallen world means that equality and fairness are unobtainable goals in the natural. Yes, there might be times when we see glimpses of fairness and equality. But, those are short-lived glimpses into what it will be like in eternity with Jesus and not a living reality here on this earth.

When Jesus spoke to a man by the name of Nicodemus, found in John 3, He described a second birth, the born again experience. (John 3:3)

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily I say unto thee, except a man be born again he can not see the kingdom of God.”

As unequal and unfair as our first birth was into this natural world, our second birth erases all that by birthing all who will partake of His forgiveness into God’s family. Now, each of us are on equal footing as joint-heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:16-17)

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. ”

Jesus has become our “Great Equalizer”. Through substitution and identification Jesus stood in our place and accepted all the punishment we were due in order to deliver us to God as His sons. No matter what our status in life was in our first birth, the second birth levels the playing field by making us all joint heirs with Christ, which is speaking of the status of our spirit man.

Spiritually speaking, there is no longer inequality amongst those who have made Jesus Lord. So, even though our outer man is so different in comparison with each other, the inner man stands equal with Christ Jesus as a joint heir with Christ.

In the spirit there are no big “I”s or little “yous”. In the spirit we are all one in Christ Jesus. No longer should we be looking to our outer man for identity. As far as God is concerned, the outer man has been accounted as dead. The real man is the man on the inside and the only identity that matters is who we are in Christ. (Colossians 3: 3)

“For you are dead, and your life hid with Christ in God.”

Dead men don’t care about what people think about them. They are not trying to impress anyone, because they are dead. What’s supposed to matter are the things of the spirit. The great equalizer has given us equal standing in the spirit through the new birth regardless of our social standing in this world. Our sonship in Jesus has nothing to do with our outer man and everything to do with who we have become in the spirit.

In closing, instead of marching and waving banners about social inequality based on the color of skin, protestors need to realize that in the new birth the outside

doesn't matter anymore. Instead, it is the new man, the inner man of the heart, joint heirs with Christ. This should answer any questions about racial division and strife based on the color of a man's skin. We need only to focus on the inner man of the heart and get our eyes off the outer man because in the spirit, those who are born again, are all one in Christ, the Great Equalizer.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins