

Bible in the News: Partiality

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In the state of Louisiana, Keith Bardwell (*right*), an elected justice of the peace for 34 years, refused to marry an interracial couple because he doesn't believe in "...mixing the races that way." He said, "In my heart, I feel the children will later suffer."



Only God knows whether or not his concern for the children is genuine. America, and indeed the world, has a bloody history of not "mixing the races," because



man looks on the outward appearance, and lives his life accordingly. It is his very nature to judge from the outward appearance, and unless man repents, this "nature" will continue to get worse, because "...evil men and seducers SHALL wax [GROW] worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 TIM. 3:13).

But, true Christians DO NOT have an "eye" of bigotry, because we are IN CHRIST. We are "...a NEW creature: old things are passed away; behold, ALL THINGS are become NEW" (2 COR. 5:17).

In his letter to the Galatian believers (2:11-21), Paul found fault with Peter for displaying partiality between Jew and Gentile believers when he "...withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of The Circumcision." This "Christian" sect dwelt among true believers and believed that "...Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (ACTS 15:1).

Not only did Peter withdraw, but "...the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation." Peter's choice influenced others to sin by showing partiality. Have you ever "withdrawn" yourself, or simply "avoided" other believers because of their color, their clothes, their poverty, or any other disparities?

When Paul saw this, he reproved them all, seeing that "...they walked not uprightly according to the TRUTH of the gospel." The gospel is the GOOD NEWS to ALL men, because God "...hath made of ONE BLOOD all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth" (ACTS 17:26), "that WHOSOEVER believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (JOHN 3:15).

It is good that God is the Author and Finisher of our salvation, and not MAN, who would show partiality, and exclude "certain kinds of folks." But with God, it's WHOSOEVER: (JOHN 3:15-16; JOHN 12:46; ACTS 10:43; ROMANS 9:33; ROMANS 10:11; 1 JOHN 5:1).

God is NOT partial, but if YOU profess to be a Christian, and are "partial" (favoring one person, faction, etc. more than another; biased; prejudiced) towards the races; the poor; the uneducated; nationalities; etc., "...how dwelleth the love of God in [YOU]" (1 JOHN 3:17), seeing that "...there is no respect of persons with God" (ROMANS 2:11)?

There are those who "...PROFESS that they KNOW God; but in WORKS they DENY him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate" (TITUS 1:16). Jesus said, "Ye shall KNOW them by their FRUITS" (MATTHEW 7:16)...for

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, HE IS A LIAR: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, HOW CAN HE love God whom he hath not seen" (1 JOHN 4:20)?

God is WARNING all who read these words that you cannot serve God and be partial and hateful towards your fellow man. God so LOVED this world, and so should we. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is IN YOU, except ye be reprobates [UNAPPROVED]" (2 COR. 13:5)?

"For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (ECCLES. 12:14).

"And there shall in no wise enter into [NEW JERUSALEM] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life" (REV. 21:27).

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