



WORD OF FAITH INT'L CHRISTIAN CENTER

TEACHING THE WORD. DOING THE WORK. TOUCHING THE WORLD.

Be Strong in the Lord, Part 2 Racism in the Church

by Bishop Keith Butler | Bible Study Notes | Ministered Sun., 6/28/20

Introduction Summary

God's command to Christians is to be strong in the Lord. But if we hold within us the sin of racism, we cannot fulfill His command. In this lesson we will study the importance of walking in love and what it means to be strong in the Lord. We will see how racism can creep into any race and the horrible price that has to be paid because of it. Finally, when we acknowledge that sin, God is faithful to forgive us and to cleanse us of the filth of racism. And when God forgives us, He treats us as though sin has never existed!

- I. Love never fails. God's love sees everyone as valuable and precious (1 Cor. 13:8-13).
- II. *Schism* means division (1 Cor. 12:25). Believers should care the same for one another.
- III. Be empowered in the Supreme Authority, the Lord (Eph. 6:10-13).
 - A. Stand means to overcome all.
 - B. God's strength causes you to hold up face to face against the devil's strategies.
- IV. What is racism?
 - A. Racism is prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.
 - B. Racism is the belief that all members of each race possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior to another race or races
- V. The first piece of the armor covers your loins with truth (Eph. 6:14).
 - A. God's Word, the Bible, is the truth (John 17:17).
 - B. Do you have ears to hear (Mark 4:23-25)?
 1. Open your heart to receive the Word (v23).
 2. Beware of what you consistently allow yourself to hear.
 3. Highly value the Word you hear (v24).
 4. The more of God's Word you receive, the more He will give you (v24).
 5. The more you reject God's Word, the more you will lose (v25).
 - C. Out in front of all is the shield of faith to extinguish Satan's attacks.
 1. But, faith is energized by love (Eph. 6:16).
 2. Love makes no distinction among people based on race (Gal. 5:6).
- VI. We were once involved in a business arrangement with a Caucasian pastor. I thought we were becoming friends until he objected to interracial marriage. Even though he had Black staff and black members, his heart was dark. I realized he couldn't be my friend.

- VII. We once had our deacon staff over for dinner and hired a saved and Spirit-filled African American woman to prepare the meal and serve. One of the deacons, Bro. Bill, was Caucasian. When that woman served Bro. Bill, she slammed his plate down in front of him, because she didn't think we should have had a Caucasian person at our table.
- VIII. My wife and I were at an event where the bishop's wife was highly upset because she thought Pastor Deborah was Caucasian. That bishop's wife was saved and Spirit-filled.
- IX. We were invited to speak at a church in Idaho to a Caucasian congregation. The whole congregation overwhelmingly received the Word from us. I could barely speak for all their "*amens*" and joy and praise to God throughout the sermon.
- X. The Jews made a difference between themselves and the Samaritans.
 - A. The Samaritans were half Jew and half Gentile. They intermarried with Assyrians during the captivity (John 4:9).
 - B. The Apostles were commanded to go to Samaria (Acts 1:8).
 - C. It took time for Peter and the Apostles to understand (Acts 10:13-16; 38-45).
- XI. Jesus meets the woman of Canaan.
 - A. She refused to be offended (Mat. 15:22-28).
 - B. We should be slow to wrath (James 1:19-20).
- XII. An African American man beat a Caucasian man for using the n-word in a mall MI.
 - A. That beating did not change the heart of the Caucasian man.
 - B. But, the African American man has to face assault charges.
 - C. Name calling won't hurt anybody.
 - D. While in Paris, with my team, I stopped a man from grabbing someone from my staff and he started to curse me out. Other people's words don't hurt you.
- XIII. Racism is sin, and has a horrible price (Rom. 6:23).
 - A. In the civil war (1861-1865), an estimated 22.6% of the men were killed or wounded. That equals one person per household.
 - B. The South did not fully recover for 100 years.
- XIV. Many Christians are guilty of murdering Jesus for not walking in love with other Christians. (1 Cor. 11:27; Eph. 1:22-23).
 - A. If you don't acknowledge the sin in your heart you won't repent of it.
 - B. The sin of racism makes you weak and can cause sickness and premature death.
 - C. When you acknowledge the problem before God, He will forgive you and treat you as though it never existed (1 John 1:9).

Closing Summary

Racism is sin. That sin weakens individuals and causes them to be sick and, in some cases, die prematurely. So, take heed to Philippians 6:10 and strengthen your spirit-man by getting rid of anything that is not of God and by putting on the whole armor of God.