


'THEY' DON'T
LOOK LIKE US
YOU DON'T ACT LIKE US
'THEY'RE ALL
'THE SAME
YOU'RE NOT HERE
I'M BETTER
THEY DON'T
YOU DON'T
I DON'T
YOU
YOU MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE
I DON'T FEEL
SAFE AROUND YOU
WE'RE BETTER APART
WE'RE JUST
DIFFERENT

THE SUBTLE CREEP OF PREJUDICE



jackson
revival center church



THE SUBTLE CREEP OF PREJUDICE

Scripture Foundation

- John 17:21 – Jesus' prayer for unity
- James 2:1 – Warning against favoritism
- Galatians 3:28 – Oneness in Christ

The Debilitating Effects of Prejudice

Big Idea: Prejudice doesn't always announce itself loudly—it creeps in quietly. Left unchecked, it blinds us and builds walls instead of bridges.

Prejudice Distorts Our Witness

- Acts 10 – Peter & Cornelius
- The world doubts the gospel when Christians fail to love across barriers.
- Our love is either the loudest sermon we preach—or our prejudice is.

Prejudice Fractures the Body

- Galatians 2 – Paul confronting Peter
- When parts of the Body are excluded or diminished, the whole Body limps.
- A fractured church cannot heal a fractured world.

Prejudice Stunts Spiritual Growth

- Jonah – Resisting God's mercy for Nineveh
- Prejudice is pride in disguise: 'I know better than God whom to love.'
- It shrinks hearts when the Spirit longs to enlarge them.

UNITY IS NOT OPTIONAL—IT IS OBEDIENCE TO JESUS' PRAYER.

How it Creeps In

Cultural Comfort Zones

We gravitate toward people who look like us, think like us, or worship like us. On the surface, it feels harmless—just human nature. But the Body of Christ is not built on comfort zones; it's built on the cross. The cross was never meant to create little clusters of sameness—it was meant to unite Jew and Gentile, male and female, slave and free into one family under Christ (Galatians 3:28).

Assumptions and Stereotypes

Without realizing it, we size people up before hearing their story. Their clothing, their background, their accent, their past becomes the lens we use to filter their worth. Yet Scripture calls us to “regard no one from a worldly point of view” (2 Corinthians 5:16). Every assumption robs us of seeing the *Imago Dei*—the image of God—in our neighbor.

Selective Compassion

Prejudice often hides in partial love. We extend compassion to those we deem “deserving,” but withhold it from those who challenge our biases. James 2 reminds us that favoritism is sin—it is antithetical to the gospel. Grace is not meant to be rationed out like portions on a plate; it is meant to overflow indiscriminately, just as it did from Calvary’s hill.

THE HIDDEN COST

Unchecked prejudice blinds us. It distorts our witness to a watching world that desperately needs to see unity. It builds walls where God intended bridges. And slowly, it hardens our hearts until division feels normal.

Unity in the Body of Christ is not optional—it is essential. Jesus prayed, “That they may be one” (John 17:21). Every subtle prejudice we tolerate is a contradiction to His prayer.

Personal Reflection

Where have “cultural comfort zones” affected how I lead or serve?

Have I ever shown “selective compassion”?

Who do I subconsciously avoid, overlook, or stereotype?

How has prejudice hurt me in the past—and shaped how I see others?



Discussion Questions

Where do you see subtle prejudice show up in everyday life –at work, school, church, or in the community?

What makes it hard for people to talk about prejudice openly?

How does Galatians 3:28 ("all one in Christ Jesus") challenge the way we view others?

What steps can we take, personally and as a church family, to reflect greater unity across barriers?

Corporate Renewal

Together we will:

- Surrender hidden prejudices and biases to God.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to renew our hearts and minds.
- Pray together for cleansing, healing, and unity.

Notes / Prayers:

Our Commitment

Together we declare:

We will love without favoritism. We will honor every part of the Body. We will walk in unity as Christ prayed.

Closing Word

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:2–3