

RACE, RELIGION, SPIRITUAL RESTORATION, & LOVE

Part 2 of 2

1 Peter 2:16-17– [16] *“Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as and excuse to do evil. Live as servants of God. [17] Treat everyone you meet with dignity. Love your spiritual family. Revere God. Respect the government.”* (NIV, New Century & Message)

FIVE PRINCIPLES RELATED TO RACE, RELIGION, SPIRITUAL RESTORATION AND LOVE

1. TREAT EVERYONE YOU MEET WITH DIGNITY

Dignity: The right to be valued and respected.

1 Peter 2:17a – *“Treat everyone you meet with dignity.”* (Message)

Titus 2:11 – *“God's grace has been revealed to save the whole human race.”* (New Jerusalem Bible)

Acts 10:28 – *“Peter told them, ‘You know it is against the Jewish laws for me to come into a Gentile home like this. But God has shown me that I should never think of anyone as impure.’”* (New Living)

Key Point: Every person has as much dignity as you do.

2. GOD INTENTIONALLY CREATED HUMAN DIVERSITY – EVERYONE IS UNIQUE

1 Corinthians 15:38-40 – [38] *“God gives everything the kind of body he wants it to have. [39] People, animals, birds, and fish are each made of flesh, but none of them are alike. [40] Everything in the heavens has a body, and so does everything on earth. But each one is very different from all the others.”* (Contemporary English Version)

Acts 17:26 – *“From one man [Adam] he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand which should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.”* (New Living)

3. WE NEED EACH OTHER AS THE COMMUNITY OF GOD

Ephesians 3:4-6 –

[4] *“As you read what I have written, you will understand what I know about this plan regarding Christ.*

[5] *God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now he has revealed it by the Holy Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets.*

[6] *And this is the secret plan: Both Jews and non-Jews have an equal share in God’s blessings. Both groups have believed the Good News, and both are part of the same body and enjoy together the promise of blessings through Christ Jesus.”* (New Living & Good News)

Hebrews 2:11 – *“Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the same family. That is why he isn’t ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.”* (Contemporary English Version)

James 3:18 – *“You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results only if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor.”* (Message)

4. WE ARE HERE TO LEARN HOW TO LOVE

Jesus summarized the entire Bible in Matthew 22:37-39.

John 13:34-35 [Jesus] – [34] *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. [35] By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (NIV)

How do we show love?

[1] Listen.

[2] Look at them.

[3] Learn from others.

Proverbs 20:5 – *“A person’s thoughts are like water in a deep well, but*

someone with insight can draw them out.” (Good News)

[4] Laugh with them.

5. WE PROMOTE SPIRITUAL RESTORATION IN THE CHURCH

2 Corinthians 5:18 – “God has done all this. He has restored our relationship with him through Christ, and has given us this ministry of restoring relationships.” (God’s Word Translation)

Remember three things:

[1] We don’t understand everybody’s struggle.

[2] All of us have a different history and upbringing

[3] Everybody feels stereotyped.

1 Corinthians 12:13 & 27 – [13] “Some of us are Jews, and some of us are Gentiles. Some of us have been slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body through one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit! ...[27] Now all of you TOGETHER are Christ’s Body, and each of you is a necessary part of it.” (New Living)