

THE UNSHAKABLE KINGDOM #17

The thunder rolling through American culture is spiritual; it's a collision of 2 Kingdoms happening in heavenly places. Our enemy is not flesh and blood; it is...

Theme

The spirit of antichrist, working through those who would turn America into a socialist nation, is working to divide us on the basis of race.

The challenge for the Church is, 'Can we provide a Christian Solution to Racism?'

RACISM

The Christian Solution

No single one of us can turn the tide of this battle; but every single one of us can have a biblical basis for our personal understanding of the issue of race; and we must begin with REPENTANCE.

Christ came to bring the Kingdom of God from Heaven to earth; He began...

Mark 1:15

Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Repentance is not just being sorry for sins; to repent literally means, to "CHANGE YOUR MIND"!

When we come to the Kingdom, we need a change of mind, to change in how we see things; including a radical new revelation about things related to race.

We need a...

I. Paradigm Shift

A. Definitions and Examples

1. What is a 'paradigm'?

"Paradigm"

A system of beliefs, ideas, values, and habits that is a way of thinking about the real world.

(So what is a "Paradigm Shift"?)

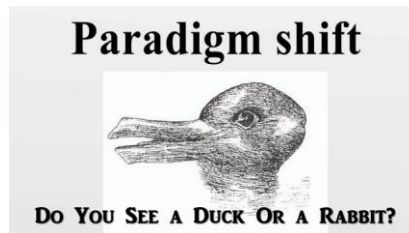
“Paradigm Shift”

A fundamental change in approach or underlying assumptions or in how one sees things.

2. A paradigm is how we think about things; how we see things.

a. A paradigm shift is what happens when we see things a new way.

b. Here are some examples. Look at each one until you can see each image a new way. Linger until you can go back and forth. That’s a paradigm shift.



DO YOU SEE 2 FACES OR A GOBLET?

c. It doesn't matter which you see first; what you see second is a 'paradigm shift'; in many ways, this is what it's like to become a Christian.

We have to be willing to change our mind; to see things a new way.

3. In 2 Corinthians 5, the Apostle Paul tells us that the Christian life is a gigantic ‘paradigm shift’...

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

4. Becoming a Christian comes with a new way to think! A new way to see ‘all things’; including the racial thing! Consider the context of the previous verses:

2 Corinthians 5:14-15

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again on their behalf.

a. The love of God compels or constrains us to ‘judge’ or see that Christ died for ALL; that we should see all men NOT as to the color of their skin but see them as those for whom He died!

2 Corinthians 5:16

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

2 Corinthians 5:16

**From this time on we do not think of anyone as the world does. (NCV)
No longer do we judge anyone by human standards (TEV)
So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. (NLT)**

b. This is repentance; we change our mind about how we see other people! Connect these 2 verses...

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

5. The Message Bible says, “We don’t evaluate people by how they look”; when we come to Christ we are a new creation; we ‘behold all things’ in a new way! Including how we see others in regard to racial issues.

Theme

Becoming a Christian means a change in the way we see all things; including things related to race.

We get rid of racism by the revelation that comes when we learn to see as God sees.

5. And how does God see? Get ready for a paradigm shift.

B. The 2 Most Important Men in the Bible

1. God does not judge men by race! God judges men according to their relationship with the 2 most important men in the Bible: Adam and Christ.

a. Everyone knows Jesus is the most important man in the Bible; but Adam is important because without Adam there would not be a human race.

2. In 1 Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul provides an extensive comparison and contrast these 2 men. He begins...

The Two Adams

1 Corinthians 15:45

So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

a. Notice: The ‘first Adam’ and the ‘last Adam’.

b. Then he refers to them as the 1st man and the 2nd man...

1 Corinthians 15:46

However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

3. Look at the summary of these 2 verses:

THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT MEN IN THE BIBLE

<u>Adam</u>	<u>Christ</u>
The 1 st Adam	The last Adam

The 1st man

The 2nd man

- a. Adam is the '1st Adam' and the '1st man'.
- b. Christ the 'last Adam' and the '2nd man'

4. Both men are "Adam" because God sees each man as the "Head" of the 2 'races' in the earth. Paul calls Christ 'the last Adam' because God wants us to know there will never be another!

- a. Get this: there are only 2 'Adam's'; only 2 generational' lineages.

5. Christ is the 'last Adam' because there will never be a '3rd' category to consider; then He is referred to as the '2nd man'. Why?

- a. The Bible tells us Adam was the 1st man; the earth's human population came from him, from his 'seed', thousands (millions?) of men if you count as men count.

- b. So in what way is Christ the '2nd man'?

**BECAUSE GOD SEES ALL WHO ARE BORN OF ADAM AS ONE MAN!
(God does not see many races; He sees one race; the 'human race')**

But Jesus is the '2nd Man'

6. This means that when Jesus was born, when the Son of God was born in the manger, in God's eyes, the population of the earth doubled! (Selah!)

7. How can we say this?

- a. Up until the birth of Christ, all born into the human race were born from the 'seed' of Adam. (Not to be indelicate, but the Greek word for 'seed' is 'sperma').

- b. Adam corrupted his seed when he sinned; since he sinned before he had children, all he could ever reproduce was a race contaminated by sin.

8. God does not see color, nationality or ethnicity. God sees the human race born of the flesh as 'one man'; collectively sinful by nature of the seed of Adam. This is why Christ, the '2nd man' could not be born of the seed of Adam!

Luke 1:30-31, 34

Then the angel told her: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name JESUS....Mary asked the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin (have not been intimate with a man)?”

a. Mary could not conceive of conception without a man. But...

Luke 1:35

The angel replied to her: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the holy One to be born will be called the Son of God.

9. Think of it this way; from the beginning of the world, Jesus was the first man born who was not born of the seed of Adam. He was a different man from all who had gone before. A new man. This is why Paul calls Him the ‘2nd man’!

10. This is why the Christian solution to racism is to see men as God sees men; not on the basis of color, or nationality, or genealogy; God sees...

C. How God Sees Men

1. God sees two “men” in the earth:

<u>Adam</u>	<u>Christ</u>
The “first Adam”	The “last Adam”
The “first man”	The “second man”
A “living soul”	A life-giving Spirit
A “natural” man	A “spiritual man”

a. God sees Adam as the head of a race born out after the flesh; God sees Christ as the Head of a race born of the Spirit.

2. God sees all men as ‘In Adam’ or ‘In Christ’.

- a. It has nothing to do with color! It has nothing to do with male or female; Jew or Gentile.
- b. When God looks into the earth He sees 2 men and their offspring.

3. God sees the 1st man (Adam) and all his descendants as the ‘first man’; born of the flesh. God sees the 2nd man (Christ) and all His descendants as the 2nd man.

4. Look at it this way; all of us come into this world born ‘in Adam’, *born after the flesh*; we are literally born of his ‘seed’, seed corrupted by sin. That’s why Jesus said ‘you must be born again’. (John 3:3)

1 Peter 1:23

...being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

a. “Corruptible” means ‘subject to decay’; this is why we get old and die.

b. But those who believe in God are ‘born again’ of ‘incorruptible’ seed; born again by the ‘Word of God’ which lives forever.

5. When we are first born of the flesh, we are “in Adam”; but when we are born again (of the Spirit) we are ‘in Christ’. God supernaturally displaces us from darkness and places us in light. Paul says it this way...

Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred (translated) us into the Kingdom of his in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

a. We are all first born ‘in Adam’; but when we are born again, God supernaturally transfers us out of Adam and places ‘in Christ’!

6. Our eternal destiny will be determined according to our relationship to these 2 men because this is how God judges men.

7. This because our God is a Covenant God. This is why the Bible is made up of 2 ‘covenants’ or ‘testament’s.

a. The Old Testament (or Covenant) is based on the covenant God made with Adam, which was a covenant based on WORKS; the New Testament based on the covenant God made with Christ, which is a covenant based on GRACE.

8. When Adam sinned, his sin was imputed to all his seed; but when the last Adam obeyed God, his righteousness was imputed to all His seed!

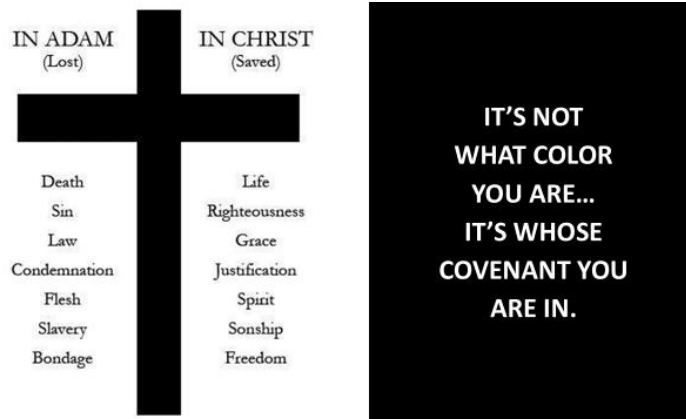
Romans 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

a. This is COVENANT language; where the “Head” acts on behalf of his descendants.

b. Adam’s sin caused me to be born a sinner; Christ’s righteousness causes me to be born again as the righteousness of God in Christ.

c. It’s not what color I am. It’s whose covenant I am in that determines what I receive.



d. None of this is about color; it’s about life and death.

1 Corinthians 15:22

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

e. If I am only ‘in Adam’ I will be condemned...But...

Romans 8:1

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

(Am I ‘in Adam’ or ‘in Christ’?)

Excerpts from 1 Corinthians 14:45-51

NASB

As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

9. We need a paradigm shift; to see as God sees; none of this has to do with race, or color, or nationality, or ethnicity. There is no room for racism!

10. But this is not a new problem.

II. Racism in the Early Church

A. Jew Versus Gentile

1. If you reread the Gospels and the Book of Acts you will see how the early church struggled with racism. Not black versus white but Jew versus Gentile.

2. When Jesus debated the Jews in the 8th chapter of John; they claimed to be righteous on the basis of their racial connection with Abraham as their father; but Jesus said "You are of your father the devil". (John 8:44)

3. The Apostle Paul had to deal with the Jews in the Book of Galatians; that the Gentiles were not truly right with God unless they practiced the Jewish customs.

For you are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Paul, writing to Gentile believers, Galatians 3:26-29 KJV

a. Paul had to preach on racism to the Romans:

Romans 10:11-13

For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

4. The Jews of Jesus' day were like the 'white supremacists' of our day; they saw themselves superior on the basis of race. They boasted themselves on the basis of the fact that they were circumcised. Paul's solution? He redefined "Jew".

Romans 2:28-29

For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

a. In Romans 9:6-7 Paul says 'not all Israel is of Israel'; meaning not all Jews are really Jews-meaning people of God. Not all Israel is true Israel in the same way that not everyone in the church is a Christian!

Matthew Henry

This is alike true of Christianity. He is not a Christian that is one outwardly, nor is that baptism which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Christian that is one inwardly, and baptism is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter, whose praise is not of men but of God.

5. Even God's greatest men had to have a paradigm shift on race; before God could send Simon Peter to the house of a Gentile He had to give him a vision 3 times that He wanted to save the house of Cornelius. Later...

Acts 10:34-35

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. (God is no respecter of persons). But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.

III. Close

A. Review

1. The spirit of antichrist, working through those who would turn America into a socialist nation, is seeking to divide us on the issue of race.

2. The Christian solution is a personal paradigm shift; when we learn to see men as God sees them.

3. The real question is not about color! It is about being ‘in Adam’ or ‘in Christ.

4. Let’s conclude re-reading these texts...

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh...Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation