

# The foolishness of Prejudice

## [ Summer Wisdom ]

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## Introduction

- **Proverbs are short sayings to give wisdom and understanding**
    1. The goal of wisdom is not to become smart. The goal of wisdom is to fear the Lord
    2. May this be the summer of wisdom for us
  - “From the beginning, men have hated men.”
    1. In Generation 1, Cain killed Abel his brother
    2. Gendercide -- and the destruction of Melos by Athens during the Peloponnesian War (fifth century BCE), a gendercidal rampage described by Thucydides in his 'Melian Dialogue'
    3. Ben Kiernan, a Yale scholar, has labelled the destruction of Carthage at the end of the Third Punic War (149–146 BCE) "The First Genocide".
    4. in the 13th century the Mongol horsemen of Temüjin Genghis Khan were genocidal killers (*génocidaires*)<sup>[11]</sup> who were known to kill whole nations, leaving nothing but empty ruins and bones
    5. The Armenian Genocide refers to the deliberate and systematic destruction of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during and just after World War I. It was implemented through wholesale massacres and deportations, with the deportations consisting of forced marches under conditions designed to lead to the death of the deportees. The total number of resulting deaths is generally held to have been between one and one and a half million.
    6. Holocaust in WWII
  - Racism → prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.
    1. Proverbs speaks often about class warfare... now we see race warfare manifest itself in the world.
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## **Foolishness of prejudice: You cannot hate others and love God (Prov. 14:21)**

- **1John 3:15** Whoever **hates** his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.
- **1John 4:20** If someone says, “I love God,” and **hates** his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

## **Foolishness of prejudice: Your attitude towards others shows your heart (Prov. 14:21)**

## **Foolishness of prejudice: displays a lack of understanding about creation (Prov. 14:21)**

1. Here is truth: we are made in common.
2. Here is truth: we carry the mark of our creation
3. Here is truth: to vandalize or defile the creation is an attack on the Artist and Creator!

## **Foolishness of prejudice: it has been destroyed by the Gospel (Prov. 14:21)**

- Narrative does not equal normative

# Conclusion

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- The question is not do you hate. The question is who do you have and why do you hate?
- **Salvation is by Grace alone, through Faith Alone, in Christ alone**
  - **Why does it Matter?**
    - We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
    - We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
    - We escape God's wrath (reconciled)
    - We are adopted in to a new family
    - We gain a new identity (New Creation)
    - **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**
  - **You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit**
  - Opportunity to respond publically
    - Come forward
    - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you

# Notes

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**14: 21** He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

- By esteeming his neighbor as vile he is culpable of arrogance and of violating God's standards (NICOT)
- The sinner evaluates his neighbor by his own depraved preferences, not by God's evaluation that each person, being in God's image, has dignity and is worthy of respect (NICOT)
  - Love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:39-40)
- Despises= sane (שׂוֹנֵא) means to hate

**22: 2** The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all.

- In the end they are both God's creatures and equal before Him (Alter).
- In most societies, ancient Israelite as well as modern, the two keep a healthy distance between themselves. (Longman)
  - However, this proverb reminds us that we are all fashioned by the same creator.
- Sin, not the Lord, creates an order of economic oppression. (NICOT)
  - Sin not the Lord creates race tensions and class tensions.
- We have a common maker, common value, common humanity.
- The rich should remember that his treatment of the poor is equated with his treatment of their maker (NICOT)

**Prov. 24:23** These things also belong to the wise:  
*It is not good to show partiality in judgment.*

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**29:13** The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

- On the surface of things, nothing could seem to be farther apart than the rich and the poor (Longman)

John 7:24 Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.”

# Illustrations

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I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word. ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Racism springs from the lie that certain human beings are less than fully human. It's a self-centered falsehood that corrupts our minds into believing we are right to treat others as we would not want to be treated. ~ Alveda King

I have a dream that one day little black boys and girls will be holding hands with little white boys and girls. ~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Racism and injustice and violence sweep our world, bringing a tragic harvest of heartache and death. ~ Rev. Billy Graham*

*Be not proud of race, face, place, or grace. ~ Charles Spurgeon*

## Chief David Brown Quotes:

- But after he came back from college in the early 1980s, he saw the crack cocaine epidemic slowly destroying his neighborhood. He couldn't watch his hometown deteriorate.
  - "I began thinking about law enforcement then," he told the Observer. "I wanted to do something rather than just complain about what was happening."
- "In the police profession, we're very comfortable with not hearing 'thank you' from citizens ... who need us the most," the chief said.
- "Become a part of the solution. Serve your communities," Chief [Brown](#) said during a Monday news conference. "We're hiring. Get off that protest line and put an application in. And we'll put you in your neighborhood, and we'll help you resolve some of the problems you're protesting about."

# Application

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- Anytime you downgrade and defile creation... you attack the creator