

THE EQUALITIES AND INEQUALITIES OF MAN

Rom 12:4-8

INTRODUCTION:

- A. We hear a great deal said today about equality among men in general
 - 1. Thomas Jefferson said: "We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their creator with inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."
 - 2. Abraham Lincoln in the Gettysburg address, phrased it this way: "fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."
 - 3. Today we hear women saying, "we want to be equal with men - equal work - equal pay."
- B. Some of this may be well and good and some may not be so good
 - 1. Democracy says: "All men are created equal," but the fact is all are not equal in every way
 - 2. James Froude, and English historian said: "Men are made by nature unequal. It is vain therefore, to treat them as if they were equal."
 - 3. Here are two conflicting ideas or schools of thought
- D. Notice some of the things in which men are equal and unequal in both the physical and spiritual realm

DISCUSSION:

I. THE INEQUALITIES OF MAN

- A. In the physical realm
 - 1. Race or nationality - difference exist because of race or nationality - not that one race is inferior to another
 - 2. Physical appearance - obvious - just look around. Even the Bible recognized differences: Sarah fair to look at; Rachel beautiful; Leah tender eyed; Saul a choice young man; Absalom praised for his beauty
 - 3. Physical ability - also obvious - Bible recognizes limits in ability: Moses called and Aaron allowed to be his spokesman; parable of talents Matt 25:15
 - 4. Intelligence - Jesus increased in wisdom Lk 2:52
 - 5. Wealth - Bible recognizes that there are rich & poor 1Tim 6:17; Matt 26:9
 - 6. Authority
 - a. Political Rom 13:1;
 - b. Occupational Eph 6:5,6;
 - c. Family Gen 3:16; Eph 5:23

- B. In the spiritual realm
 - 1. Accumulated knowledge 1Pet 2:2; 2Pet 1:5
 - a. Desire milk of word
 - b. Add to faith, virtue, knowledge ---
 - 2. Acquired ability
 - a. Different ability in the New Testament Rom 12:4-8
 - b. With different ability = different responsibility Eph 4:12-17
 - 3. Authority
 - a. All subject to Christ as our King
 - b. However elders are rulers over us Heb 13:17; 1Tim 5:17

II. THE EQUALITIES OF MAN

- A. In the physical realm
 - 1. Birth - all born of woman none can change this Gen 3:16
 - 2. One blood - Acts 17:26 all offspring of Noah a descendant of Seth
 - 3. Death - all must die Heb 9:27; Rom 5:12
- B. In the spiritual realm
 - 1. All have a soul Gen 2:7; Eccl 12:7
 - 2. All under sin Rom 5:12; 3:23
 - 3. All have a common redeemer Gal 3:13; 1Pet 1:18,19
 - 4. One Gospel for all Gal 1:8,9
 - 5. A common invitation to come to Christ Matt 11:28
 - 6. One church available to all Matt 16:18; Eph 4:4; Col 1:18
 - 7. All will face judgment Heb 9:27; 2Cor 5:10; Acts 17:31; Rom 14:12

CONCLUSION:

- A. It is not hard to see that in many things we are not equal, but in the spiritual realm we stand before God with equal rights for salvation, it is available to all
- B. God is no respecter of persons Acts 10:34
- C. Story is told about three people who came forward on Lord's day to be received into membership of a church in Washington D.C.. One had come to Washington to be Secretary of State of the United States; one was a poor working woman and the other was a black man. The preacher of the church said to the congregation: You will note that the ground is level at the cross."
- D. Whatever your state in life, you have as much right as anyone to take advantage of the salvation offered through Christ and to become "one in Him," to be above no one or to be beneath anyone.