

Some Final Thoughts

Privilege

What is white privilege? *It's the social and economic advantage that comes with being seen as the norm in America, automatically conferred regardless of wealth, gender or other factors. It makes life smoother, but it's something you would barely notice unless it were suddenly taken away — or unless it had never applied to you in the first place.*

You may be irritated by this concept. You may not like that I've even brought it up or think that it doesn't really exist. But I can tell you, I have seen first-hand the symptoms of this reality hundreds, maybe thousands, of times in my life – and not just in the South. The imbalance I have found in these areas are real:

- Employment & Professional Opportunities
- Distribution of Wealth
- Neighborhood Welcome-ness
- Fairness, Criminality & the Judicial System
- Marriage & Relationships
- Personal Respect & Deemed Trustworthiness

Proverbs 20:23; 11:1

The Lord detests double standards; he is not pleased by dishonest scales...A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight.

Shouldn't We Ask Ourselves:

“Why does even discussing this concept bother me?”

“Why am I quick to dismiss or discredit its legitimacy despite an incredible body of evidence?”

“What is it in me that feels threatened?”

I can't see into your heart...maybe even you can't.

1 Cor. 4:3-5

I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me...He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.

But I know that we live in a society that champions and worships individualism.

- We grow up believing that are value and worth is tied to our performance.
- Perhaps we feel **we have earned what we have...who we are...**
 - Perhaps the concept of White Privilege undermines that belief system, and **threatens both our self-worth, and our comfort** – calling on us to “balance the scales”
 - Perhaps it **insults our Pride** and what we want to believe about ourselves

But I Want to *KINGDOMIZE* Our Understanding of “Privilege”

- Race Privilege
- American (National) Privilege
- Male (Gender) Privilege
- Youth (Age) Privilege
- Beauty Privilege
- Wealth Privilege

All Different Kinds of Privilege

Here and now, we are enveloped in its many forms...Some of us more than others...
Most of us more than the rest of the world...

As Citizens of God's Kingdom (followers of Jesus) here are two vital points to understand about the privilege of any kind you enjoy:

1. ALL We Have (and I mean EVERYTHING) Was GIVEN to Us by GOD

James 1:16-18

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father** of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. **He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.**

- **It is a prideful lie to be anything but grateful...to think I earned this because of who I am...**
 - God has given us everything we have...health, opportunity, enjoyment, life

Ecclesiastes 5:19

It is a good thing to receive wealth from God and the good health to enjoy it.

- **"Chose us...to be firstfruits"**
 - A harvest, a nourishment, a help -- life to others – that is Kingdom Privilege!

2. PRIVILEGE is GIVEN to US as STEWARDS in Order to SERVE OTHERS

1 John 3:17-19

If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need **but shows no compassion**—how can God's love be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹ **Our actions will show that we belong to the truth**, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

- **Some of you have little compassion on the hurts and burdens of others**
 - *"The Black Community is showing you their scars..."*
 - Your lack of awareness, your ignorance, your stance of protecting your privilege...is obvious in your lack of action, or your prideful resistance
 - In God's Kingdom, Privilege is Meant to be Given Away...to be Shared

Acts 2:44-47

All the believers met together in one place and **shared everything they had**. They **sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need**. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and **shared their meals with great joy and generosity**— all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. **And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.**

- **Romans 12:18 "As Far As it Depends on You, be at PEACE with all men"**
 - Peace is only possible where justice, kindness, and humility live
 - You are God's conduits of Justice and Compassion, and He has given you Privilege to accomplish His Will.
 - Are you Humble enough to be His instrument and live a life letting it flow through you?
 - **Matthew 25:31-46**