

## “REFLECTIONS ON RACE AND THE GOSPEL”

### JOHN 4

#### I. MEET ON COMMON GROUND

*“4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.”*

#### II. DRINK FROM THEIR CUP

*“7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)”*

#### III. CHANGE THE SUBJECT

*“9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” 19 “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you people claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.””*

#### IV. DON’T COMPROMISE TRUTH

*“21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews.” 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers*

*the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.””*

#### - A Story from the ‘Hood (Galatians 2: 11-14)

*“11 When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. 12 For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. 14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?””*

#### V. THE CHURCH’S ILLEGITIMATE DIVISIONS

- RACE - God will not function in an environment of disunity because it is against his nature.

- POLITICS - God is neither a Republican nor a Democrat.

#### VI. NOW IS THE TIME FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

*“24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. 25 The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us“... 27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. . . 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you know nothing about. “... 35 Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.””.*

*“20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and]the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” Galatians 2: 20*