

Equal in God's Eyes

Acts 17:24-28

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- “God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, ‘For we are also His offspring.’”

Equal in God's Eyes

- “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” *(Thomas Jefferson, The Declaration of Independence)*

Equal in God's Eyes

- Is it true that all men are created equal?
- It depends on whether we define equal based on our subjective viewpoint or on God's objective word.
- Inequalities in this world exist and always will.
 - Ecc. 9:11 - "I returned and saw under the sun that- The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all."

Equal In Origin

- We are all created by God.
 - Prov. 22:2 - “The rich and the poor have this in common, The LORD is the maker of them all.”
 - Acts 17:26 - “And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.”

Equal In Origin

- We all came from Adam and Eve.
 - Gen. 2:21-23 - “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.”
 - Gen. 3:20 - “And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.”

Equal In Origin

- 1Cor. 15:45-49 - “And so it is written, The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.”

Equal In Origin

- Seven generations later, the earth was destroyed because of world-wide sin, except for Noah and his family, from whom we descended.
 - Gen. 6:5-8 - “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 So the LORD said, ‘I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.’ 8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.”
 - Gen. 9:19 - “These three were the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.”

Equal In Origin

- The various peoples, nations, and languages were generated at the scattering of humankind from Babel.
 - Gen. 11:6-8 - “And the LORD said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. 7 Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. 8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.”

Equal In Origin

- Tony Fitzpatrick, “Biological differences among races do not exist, WU research shows.”
<http://record.wustl.edu/archive/1998/10-15-98/articles/races.html>
- R.C. Lewontin, “Confusions About Human Races,” *<http://raceandgenomics.ssrc.org/Lewontin>*

Equal In Fall

- Unfortunately, humankind shares equality in vulnerability; we are all subject to temptation and sin.
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Equal In Fall

- Sin started with Adam, and every accountable human being imitates his fall in our own ways.
 - Rom. 5:12-14 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned-- 13 (For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.”

Equal In Fall

- National origin is no protection from sin.
 - Rom. 3:9-10 - “What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. 10 As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one.”

Equal In The Judgment

- Everyone will appear before God.
 - 2Cor. 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Equal In The Judgment

- Every nation will come before Christ.
 - Matt. 25:31-32 - “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.”
 - Rom. 3:29-30 - “Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.”

Equal In The Judgment

- It is this equality in judgment that should give Christians empathy for fellow disciples.
 - Rom. 14:10 - “But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”

Equal In The Judgment

- Judgment will be impartially conducted based on what we have done:
- Fairly rendered
 - Col. 3:24-25 - “Knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”

Equal In The Judgment

- Based on what we have done.
 - Rev. 22:12 - “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.”
- What we do will be measured by the truth.
 - Rom. 2:2-11

Equal In The Judgment

- It will be by means of the record of our lives.
 - Rev. 20:12 - “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”
- By the standard of the Gospel.
 - Rom. 2:16 - “In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel.”

Equal In The Offer Of Salvation

- God loves us too much to let us go hopelessly and inevitably to Perdition.
 - Rom. 5:6-10 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

Equal In The Offer Of Salvation

- God's desire to save every willing human being was an integral part of His eternal plan for the world.
 - John 3:16-18 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."
 - Eph. 1:3-14

Equal In The Offer Of Salvation

- This plan of salvation is offered to everyone equally.
 - Gal. 3:26-29 - “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”
- Without distinction
 - Rom. 10:12 - “For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.”

Equal In The Offer Of Salvation

- Everyone who wills may be made new.
 - Col. 3:9-11 - “...You have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.”

Equal In The Offer Of Salvation

- But while the plan is equally offered, not everyone will accept it; most will reject the promise of salvation given equally to all, a salvation that makes everyone equally a child of the Creator and King in Heaven.
 - Phil. 2:12-13 - “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”

Equal In The Offer Of Salvation

- Acts 10:34-35 - “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. 35 But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.”
- Rev. 22:14, 17 - “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city... 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”