



# **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW!**

**Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**

## **Tribalism - Us versus Them!**

**Ephesians 2:14-18**

**Topical Message #7 – S967**

**Sermon given on October 17, 2021**

**@ Calvary Chapel French Valley, Murrieta, CA**



**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# Tribalism - Us versus Them!

## *Ephesians 2:14-18*

### Opening Comments

- Good morning – today we continue our series: **Worldviews: Aligning your view of the world with God's Word!**
- Please stand and take a look around – say hello to someone
- I would like you to notice how different we all are
- Different ages, different genders (two of them), different races
- There are differences we can't see – background, experiences, upbringing, employment or retirement, health and ability or disability
- There are political affiliations, sports team affiliations
- You may be seated
- You might be able to think of a hundred things that make us different
- As different as we are, we are not here because of our differences but because of what we have in common
- We all believe that Jesus died for our sins and as an act of faith and obedience we gather here to worship God with our voice and by sitting and listening to His Word being taught
- We are knit together by faith into a community
- There is a cultural term for this community – it is our tribe
- A tribe is any group that has a feeling of loyalty based on relationship, religion, ideology, affinity, shared experience, or in our case theology
- It is in our nature to form tribes
- CCFV is our spiritual tribe
- The most common form of tribe is the family
- Just as each of us is different, our tribes are different too
- The tribe that is my family is different than the tribe that is Pastor Randy's family
- There is another cultural term that we will look at this morning – tribalism
- Tribalism describes how the members of the tribe are connected and how they relate to one another within the tribe
- It also describes how different tribes relate to one another

- That will be our main focus this morning
- What we see going on in our culture is tribalism – one group interacting with another group in ways that do not seem to be good or right
- But first, let's pray!
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **Tribalism - Us versus Them!**
- Turn in your Bible to **Genesis 1**
- Why do almost all humans strive to belong to a tribe?
- The need to belong is rooted so deep within the human soul, that people without tribes usually struggle to thrive
- It is so deeply engrained into us that people will join an evil tribe just so that they belong
- The whole gang culture is young people's need to belong to a tribe
- Often because that need is not being met at home
- This need to belong to a tribe can be traced back to the creation account
- On the sixth day, after everything else had been created God said...
- **Genesis 1:26-27**
- "In Our image" – God is one God in three Persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – a perfect community of unity
- When God created the original humans, it was with the need to be in community just as God is in community
- That is seen most clearly in the creation of the second human, Eve
- **Genesis 2:18**
- It is not good for creatures who were created to be in tribes when they are alone
- God created the first human tribe when He brought Eve to Adam
- **Genesis 2:24**
- Though they were still distinct individuals, a new community had been formed – a small tribe
- God told them to go forth and multiply – to grow the tribe through new births – which they did

- Unfortunately, in the next chapter they sinned, and sin entered the human heart corrupting the perfection of God's creation and the perfect community
- They did multiply, but sin so thoroughly corrupted them that God sent a flood to cleanse the earth – saving only the small tribe of Noah and his family
- Noah's sons started multiplying again, but sadly the sin that led to the flood led to another tragedy on the plains of Shinar
- **Genesis 11:1-9**
- Once God confused their languages, they formed tribes with those whose language they understood and spread out over the face of the earth, which is what God had told them to do – not build a tower
- Those tribes became the nations, developing their own customs, laws, and religions – mostly without God.
- As time went on, not only was their language different, but everything was different from the other nations
- And then in Genesis 12, God chose Abram/Abraham to be the father of a special people – the Chosen People of God – the Jews
- They would also be known as the twelve tribes of Israel
- Out of one of those tribes, Judah, would come the God-Man, God in human flesh, Jesus Christ
- And by Him a new tribe was formed – the church **Matthew 16:18**  
**And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**
- Tribes and tribalism are ancient
- And they are not inherently evil – except when they exclude God and His Word, the Bible
- Tribalism helps members of the tribe identify who is in the tribe
- It also helps you identify who is not in the tribe
- And that is where the trouble begins
- What invariably comes out of tribalism is an 'Us versus Them' attitude toward other groups
- Let's do a little experiment to see how well we know our culture
- I am going to name a group – a tribe – you respond out loud with who they are 'versus'
- These are some of the 'Us versus Them' tribalism of our culture

- Democrat versus...Republican
- Poor people versus...rich people
- Men versus...women
- Vaccinated versus...unvaccinated
- Peoples of color versus...white people
- Gay people versus...straight people
- Pro-life people versus...pro-abortion
- Even the church is not free from 'Us versus Them' attitudes
- Just one of the problems of godless tribalism is the way people use it to judge others
- When people view others through a 'Us versus Them' worldview it usually includes a type of judgment
- If someone is inside the tribe, they are right – Outside = wrong
- Inside = moral, outside = evil
- Inside = good, outside = bad
- Inside = to be accepted, outside = to be rejected
- Inside = to be believed, outside = not to be believed
- These become the lens through which people view the world
- For example: The police vs the Defund the Police Movement
- If someone is in the defund the police movement, they tend to view the police with distrust, as racist, even suggesting they prey upon poor young black men
- Anything that happens, the police are viewed as the villain and the person they are interacting with is a victim, even when that person was obviously guilty
- From that worldview, it is not the person is innocent until proven guilty – it is the police are guilty!
- One of the dangers of tribalism is that truth is replaced with dogma  
**Dogma: a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true.**
- Dogma is what the tribe says is true
- Questioning the tribe's dogma – their rules or principles – is likely to result in being rejected by the tribe and labeled as an outsider – One of 'Them'
- This tribalism is showing up in every area of our society

- Tribalism is at the root of all the godless worldviews that are destroying our culture
- Tribes without God are quickly corrupted into godless tribalism – wicked ‘us versus them’ attitudes and actions, including violence – like we saw in the riots of last year
- Our goal in this series is to align our view of the world with God’s Word
- We were created to be in tribes – families, communities, churches
- I would like to share with you three **Aspects of Biblical Tribalism**
- We should take some time and examine each of our tribes – marriage, family, church, and whatever other tribe you are in – look for these three things – in you first and then in your tribe
- Look for ‘Us versus Them’ attitudes, judgments, and actions
- First of the **Aspects of Biblical Tribalism – Us and God**
- Christians are often known for what they are against – instead, we should be known for who we are with and who is with us **Romans 8:31**

**What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us?**

- Christianity is not about ‘us versus them’ – it is about us and God
- God is the main thing, He is the head of our tribe, He is the reason our tribe exists, He is the purpose
- As Christians, we do have dogma, it is God’s Word – true and truth
- Before I look at and interact with those who outside my tribe, I must first examine my own heart and my tribe
- Does God have His right place in my heart and is He the head of my tribe?
- Is my life surrendered to God and His Word – Is my marriage – Is my family – Is my church?
- Not ‘us versus them’ but ‘us and God’
- Second of the **Aspects of Biblical Tribalism – Us and Them**
- Godless tribalism views members of other tribes as people they are against
- This had crept into the life of the first-century Jews
- It was Jews versus Gentiles – Jews thought they were better than the Gentiles

- God had chosen them – they must be better
- Turn to **Ephesians 2**
- That is a weird thing for them to believe because God had told them that was not why He chose them - chose them because He wanted to
- Paul explained that was a wrong attitude toward the ‘thems’ that were the Gentiles
- **Ephesians 2:14-18**
- ‘has made both one’ – not ‘us versus them’ but ‘us and them’
- Genesis 2 teaches us that all mankind was made in the image of God
- Every human, including all the ‘thems’ of the world, are divinely created image-bearers of God
- Every one the them was created to be the object of God’s love, just like us
- Jesus died so that every one of them could be forgiven of their sins, just like us
- John 3:16 – God loves the world – us and them
- The ‘Us versus Them’ worldview causes us to see them as adversaries
- They are not the enemy **Ephesians 6:12**  
**For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.**
- When we stand against the evils in this world we may have to stand against people – they are not the enemy to be vanquished
- They are divinely created image-bearers who are ignorant of God and His Word, or they have been deceived by the enemy of our soul, the Devil into believing some lie – people are not our enemy
- Not ‘Us versus Them’ but ‘Us and God’ and ‘Us and Them’
- Third and final of the **Aspects of Biblical Tribalism – Us and Them and God**
- Every human has been created to bear God’s image out into the world
- Satan has deceived most of humanity into believing his lies and so most people are not fulfilling their divine calling
- That doesn’t make them our enemy – that’s makes them our ministry
- They may treat us like an enemy - but then they treated our Savior Jesus like an enemy and His response was to die for them **Luke 23:34**  
**Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”**

- As God's people we are called to be lights of God's love, grace, and forgiveness to the 'thems' in the darkness of the world
- This doesn't answer all the questions of how we do that in each circumstance but it clarifies our worldview
- It is not 'Us versus Them', it is 'us and them and God' **Romans 12:18**  
**If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.**
- We are living in a world that has rejected God and His Word
- It may not be possible to live peaceably with ALL men/women
- But we can, by God's grace and in the power of the Spirit of God standing on the truth of God's Word do what 'depends upon us'
- Let's pray and ask for God's help to do that
- **Prayer!**