

## Title: Wall of Separation

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 5/14/23

Two weeks ago Brandy spoke of the spirit of offense being the bait of Satan and a stumbling block. Last week I spoke on Zephaniah chapter three and recognizing the Lord in our midst and who He is. When you recognize the Lord for who He is, He keeps you from all baits. The Lord's Prayer tells us the model of how we are to pray. It is not necessarily to be verbatim, but it was the structure on how you flesh out your prayers. It was the skeleton of how to do your prayer to the Father. There is a very specific part in that prayer where He asks we would not be led into temptation, but be delivered from the evil one. Part of that temptation that we are asking for Him to deliver us from is that our eyes would see the stumbling block before us.

### Psalm 119:105

His word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. But, what does that mean? It is so the Father of Lights can illuminate or enlighten our hearts, so that we can see the stumbling blocks in our midst.

### Ephesians 1:18

That God would enlighten our hearts to see the riches of His inheritance in the saints. Part of that is recognizing what is in our heart that *we stumble on and* keeps us from walking in our destiny. I am going with what the Holy Spirit is teaching us in this house. One of the main areas there has been a stumbling block since the beginning of time, not just in America, is the stumbling block between the separation of the Jewish people and the rest of the races of the world. It is evident according to the Bible that God has placed a uniqueness and specialness on the Jews, as a race, and His people, then there are the rest. I am one of the rest. There are some that have been set apart, of the Jewish faith, of the Jewish race. You can be of the Jewish faith, but not of the Jewish race. You understand that?

But, then there is an amazing mystery that happens in the Bible. I am saying, we do not understand how unique the people of God are. God does not consider them a race of the world. God considers them His own family. The seed of Himself, because that is literally what happened. Abraham was, "as good as dead, and Sarah was *no longer fertile*." Yet there was a birthing from Abraham and Sarah. *They had a son*, Isaac, and the blessing of God's covenant with a people went through them. That is the race of the Jews. So, God does not see them as a people of this world. He sees them as a people of His realm and of His creation. He set them apart *as His family*.

They were going to show all the rest of the people what it meant to be a part of His family. That was the goal. That was the mission. They would advance and multiply the family of God by showing and exalting Him through all the world. That did not happen. They became inward focused as exclusive saying this is our God and you are not part of us. There was haughtiness and enmity toward the Jews because "they are better than us, and how did they become so special compared to us?" That is the antisemitism that is prevalent, because the world is not of God. It started with His people. You could not *include them in your life*. There was an offense of antisemitism that always came up. This is prevalent in the Bible.

I am talking about this today, because we have been talking about the spirit of offense. You need to understand this stumbling block. It is not a new thing. But, its beginnings has been the reason why there is racism in the world. God created His race. If you think it is any other way, you are wrong. It is because God created His race, that all the rest of the world *became*

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offended. God created His own race. Now, we are at enmity with what God has done. But, He has made a way to graft us in to His people. That settles that war of racism that is in our lives. This is biblical. I am going to show you.

#### Romans 1:22-26

“Professing to be wise they became fools.” This tells us *what is in* the hearts of the world, the hearts of all races, the hearts of all mankind. We profess to be wise even to this day, then we become fools. When we settled this, that “we do not agree with what God is doing.” God lets us go to our own vile passions. You have to understand that God is not going to force us to believe Him. He never has, and He never will. Even when we have seen His invisible attributes, we said, “I do not want to do what God says. I want to do what I want to do. My flesh is saying I want to divide.” The flesh wants to always be divisive. Not to envision with God's vision, but “di-vision” from God.

#### Romans 1:16-17

“For the Jew first, and also for the Greek.” The Jew is first, because He was the house of God. You are going to give your inheritance to your family first, and then to the others. God has the same mindset. Why? Because, God is a family man. His name is Father. His nature is to raise up families. You are not coming into a business relationship here. You are not coming into a business contract. You are not coming into a community of partnerships and understanding. You are coming into the house of God, who has children of God, and He is a family of God.

So, His first family was the Jews. The gospel had to go to them first, and those who believed it, encountered God, the Father's heart. He says, “You know what, it is not just about you.” It is not just about *the Jews*, and it never was. It was a mystery that was hidden in the Bible for all of this time. You thought that you were the special ones and you are unique. But, the special ones are what I am going to do that through. You are going to spread the word, that this gospel I preach is for all. This is for all, the Jew and the Greek. “Greek” can also be translated as Gentile. Gentile can also be translated as the “nations.” The other parts of the world, not just if you are from Greece.

#### Isaiah 57:14-19

This stumbling block of offense, as we have explained, comes from our coveting that blessing of God for the Jews. We coveted that family. God, the real one true living God, is a Father that has a family. All of the other nations had a god, but, never one that was a father with a family. It was always a master over people out of fear or a terror. They had a look of covetousness at the blessing. “Look at the promise. Look at how their God fights for them.” That was what happened. There was an offense. Only by a humble and contrite spirit could you be healed.

#### Isaiah 57:15

To go into this subject, you have to humble yourself and realize that the root of it is that the world is offended at God. Ishmael is still offended at God. We take on that offense that there is an Isaac. Ishmael is the “flesh way” that Abraham had a son. Those people still dwell in the Middle East. Right? Isaac, is the “God way” that Abraham had a son. Those people dwell in Israel. There is still that offense that we take on as Ishmael with the whole world that God has a family. That is the whole root of racism. “But, God.” Say it with me, “But, God.”

#### Isaiah 57:19

Please note, “on those who are far off and to those who are near,” because you will hear that again.

The great mystery in the Bible was the special covenant of God with His people. Now there is one covenant for all races to be His special people. It is not Jews first, then Greeks. It is now

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“one family, one race, one God, and one Spirit of all.” That is a mystery. You cannot rank yourself anymore. In the book of Romans, the only reason it said it went to the Jew first, was because they were the first to get the inheritance.

#### Matthew 15:26-28

Jesus confirmed this when the the Gentile woman comes to ask that her daughter be set free from demonic torment. If you take offense, you are not understanding His salvation was for His family first. His family is first, but there is a mystery that He wanted all to be His family.

#### Ephesians 2:4-18

He healed and gave peace to those who “were far off and those who are near,” through the blood of Jesus. The peace that He sent by His word through the blood of the Lamb on the cross. Are you seeing this? This is what heals you. Isaiah said that this is what heals you from your enmity with the people of God. The world is going to really get angry at the Jews. Because of that anger, the world will get angry at each other. We have seen it in our nation with racism.

We say, “I thought we dealt with this. I thought we had a civil war over this. I thought that we had a civil rights movement in the 60s. Why does this keep springing out of our hearts?” Because we are born at enmity with God. That enmity is only at peace when you see the stumbling block that Jesus had to remove. It first started in that you have a racism issue with His people if you were not born of His people. I know not all of us here are like that. But, that is the root of it.

#### Ephesians 2:17-18

“He came and preached peace to you who were far off and to those who were near.” Those who are near are the Jews, and those who are far off are the “other people till end of the world.” That is us here in West Texas, right? “For through Him, we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.” Not the business partner of our faith, or the community mayor, but to the Father. That is what the world has always wanted. That is what you have always wanted. It is what we want, the Father. I want a Father. I want a God who loves me, and disciplines me and chastens me and blesses me and gives me an inheritance. “Now by the Spirit of God, you have one Father.”

#### Ephesians 2:19-22

#### Ephesians 2:4

Now you can see how the apostle is addressing the issue of race in this passage. We understand some of the context that is not his main point, but it is in there. Because that is the mystery that God has made of a people that were not anything, His special people, by being grafted in. That is me. I was grafted in, and now I am unique. I am special in the blood of Jesus. It is one race. That is a mystery. How can you make one race? He does. That is what He says, “We are One.”

#### Ephesians 2:4-7

That is not just the Gentiles. It is not just the Jews. That is the One family together. He raised us up together. He seated us up there together. Wow. Right. I hope that is a wow!

#### Ephesians 3:5-7

So, the issue that comes into our nation is that there are whites and minorities. The offense comes against people like me. I fit that bill. The offense comes against me. Right? Because whites have it all together. That is the offense. Minorities have been abused by the ones that

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have it all together. Right? So, my ancestor's generations ended up in Europe. Most people would agree with me.

I want to show you a map of Europe. Now, this is very simple. I want you to see how unified Europe is. Do you think that is a unified continent? No. Why do you think that? Because, it is chopped up to pieces. If you were born in Croatia, you do not want anything to do with the Slovenians. You do not want anything to do with the Italians. They do not want anything to do with the Austrians. They do not want anything to do with the Swiss, who definitely do not want anything to do with the Germans or anybody else, because they are neutral. Then you have the French who are not like the Spaniards. The Portuguese are just over there. Then you have the British across the channel and nobody gets along with them, but the Irish, and they are still free. Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Danes are all vikings, but they are not the same vikings and are separated.

If you are white, you have roots in one or some of these countries. How unified are they that they are all on the same continent. They are not unified. Even on this continent there is division and offense. Yugoslavia is above Greece. Between Greece and Austria there is a whole conglomerate of the Slavs. Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina and all of those countries. They all split up, because they could not be around each other. It is racism. They still have wars to this day.

The war going on between Ukraine and Russia is because Ukraine does not believe that they are Russian, and the Russians believe that they are. That was the premise of why Putin wanted to "save" the Ukrainians. Saying, because they are a part of the Motherland of Russia, we are helping them become part of us again. Ukrainians are resisting saying we do not have anything to do with Russia. I am not saying which one is wrong or right. I am *stating* race is the division you see. Europe is really small compared to Asia.

Asia is unique in that it has the two massive countries of Russia and China each of these having large amounts of land and many people of different nationalities. The Middle East is there as well with several people groups. Then you have Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. I may have missed one.

Our world is clashing in ideologies, but how do you bring them together? Do you force them as Russia and China do, or do you make them choose with democracy? China and Russia have pushed the idea that people cannot stay together because race always gets in the way. People cannot stay together. Race always gets in the way. Divisions always come. Ethnicity is unique. Cultures are unique. People groups are unique. China and Russia have pushed that envelope, but they did it with an iron fist. They forced it.

On the continent of Africa, some of these countries are massive. But, they are still broken up because of ethnicity and race. This has happened since the Tower of Babel when God scattered the people working together trying to build a tower. God had told them to scatter and I will bless you, but they did not and started building the Tower of Babel. God gave them all different languages making it impossible for them to work together and they separated. God went and did His own thing. He had His own family through Abraham and He blessed them and not the rest of the people. That is the root of racism.

On the continent of North America, something very different has happened. It is broken up by Central America, where you have Nicaragua, Panama, Costa Rica, and Guatemala. They are broken apart into different ethnic groups. Then you have Canada, United States and Mexico. God has had grace on this land. Yes, we have multiple states. When you go to other countries, they are shocked that we can go across the states and have interstate commerce. You are free

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to go to Maine, or to go to California whenever you want. If you have the money to get there, you are free to do it.

God has shed His grace on America. There is an anomaly happening in this country that world history has never seen. A multitude of different nations can be under one banner, one flag, with liberty and justice for all. So far, we have not divided. We tried to divide in the 1860s, but through strong leadership, the grace of God, and revival, we have stayed together. Only because of *spiritual* awakenings, have we actually humbled ourselves with a contrite spirit and said, "Lord, heal us." We have not done it perfectly. Neither has any other country or continent, including Australia, which I do not have much to say about. I want to show you another map.

I want to show you a map of Europe overlaid by a map of the United States. Maybe it will give you a picture of how gracious God has been *toward* us. Basically, almost all of the European continent could be squeezed into the area of the United States. How many different races would that be in our one country? Yet, we do not look like that. I am not saying that we do not have any racism in our country. It is a stumbling block in our midst. If we do not deal with it, with a humble and contrite spirit, we could look like Europe.

We have an enmity to what God is doing, and we do not like it, because at the root, we are antisemitic at heart. But, Jesus tore down that wall of separation. Jesus tore down that wall of racism. Jesus tore that down and "made peace for those who are near, and for those who are far off." He is the peace. He settles that enmity. We were trying to bring these different ways of being "woke or anti-racist" as ways to be healed from this part of our hearts, but it will not do it. It will put a bandaid over the true cause. That might be helpful, but it will not heal the land.

The only healing that can be done is through Christ Jesus, and through what He did at the cross. He tore down that wall of separation between race, because "there is neither Jew nor Greek, but one in Christ Jesus." I hope you can see it with that picture of how divided Europe is which is supposedly the "white's land," but that is not my country. Do you understand? Thank you, Jesus for filling in the blanks.

#### Galatians 3:26-29

You give up your life and you die. Baptism means you are in the grave. You gave it all up. You gave up your old life. You gave up your mothers and your fathers. You gave up your place. You gave up your family. You gave up your nationality for Christ. You gave up your identity for Christ, and you became a son of God. This is revolutionary. Yes, "there is neither Jew nor Greek." There is no race. There is "neither slave nor free." There is no social status. There is "neither male nor female," there is no rank or authority in their gender.

Do you see that? That does not mean that there are not genders. People have used it like that. But, that is not the meaning. It means that there is no rank. Male is not greater than the female, and the female is not greater than the male. That is what it is saying. There is "neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." If you are Christ's, "then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise." Wow! That has destroyed every social stereotype in one verse. Did you see there is no difference in your races, and there is no difference in your social status. You are not greater if you are elite or if you are poor. You are not greater if you are a slave or if you are a free man. There is nothing, no rank there. There is not even a rank if you are a male or a female, because you are all one, in Christ Jesus. You are one bought with a very severe price. If you do not believe it, then you are offending Jesus's sacrifice.

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Colossians 3:9-11

This is an offense. The world does not want you to hear this. You were first at enmity with God and His race. That is where all racism has stemmed from. If you didn't know that God loved a special people, you would not care, because we would all be following our own gods. But, when you see the blessing of the Jews, that is where all offense and racism comes from. You see somebody that has something that you do not and you covet it, not realizing that the way that you get the blessing is to go through Jesus. That is where it starts from. That is where it comes from. It is the root and the spirit of it.

Romans 10:12-13

That means that there is no partiality. That means He does not give special treatment to the Jews anymore. If you call upon the name of the Lord, you shall be sozoed, healed, saved, delivered and blessed eternally, forever and ever. You do not get just some of the blessing. You do not get some of the cake. He is rich and gives it all. Wow! What a mystery God. That does not make sense. Why would you do that? That is His ways. "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Yes!

I Corinthians 12:12-14

There is something very important to you here, and it is lordship. There is something very important being shown in this. The lordship of truly, completely giving it all up. Baptism is saying that I have made Jesus Christ Lord and Master of my heart. Baptism is showing the world that I am no longer my own. I am whatever Jesus raises me to be. I am no longer Mexican. I am no longer English. I am no longer Slovenian. I am no longer Italian. I am in Christ, and of His family alone. I am no longer of this world. I have no identity in this world.

I have only identity in Christ. I drink of His Spirit. You say, "Why does it offend me?" Is there no uniqueness? Yes, there is. He wants all of His family. He wants the unique characteristics that you have, but it cannot be preeminent over Him. I cannot be an Englishman before I am a Christian. I cannot be a Saudi Arabian and do things that are of Saudi Arabia, if Jesus tells me to stop doing them. He wants the uniqueness of those who are far away. But, changing the way you think to know preeminently you are not of this world. But, your uniqueness makes His body so beautiful. In the body of Christ, we do not all look the same. We all have different characters, traits, features, loves, and flavors, but preeminently, you are Christ's and in Christ alone.

Ephesians 4:1-6

You were called to "not walk in offense." You were called to not take up the stumbling block. I am charging you and beseeching you to be very aware of it, because it is at enmity with God. It is manifesting itself today. Jesus is the bond of peace that settles in our hearts any offense and coveting of race or where we came from in our past. He covered it all. He takes off all the injustice. He brings it to peace. All of the offenses, the wounds, and wrongdoings that have happened, He truly brings to peace. All of the wrongdoings that have happened to minorities in our country is nothing compared to the injustice and the torment that has happened to His own people over the centuries. He has covered it by the cross and brought peace to it even in our nation. If He has forgiven us for what we have done to the Jews. He will forgive us for what we have done to each other.

Ephesians 4:3-6

This is what it means to be in the family of God.

Let's stand and pray that the Lord is going to keep teaching us and making us aware by shining a light on any stumbling blocks.

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Lord, we thank you. I honor you that you are our Father. You are through us, and you are in me. I am a heart of your heart, flesh of your flesh, and bone of your bone only because of Jesus. I acknowledge what He did on the cross. He tore down that wall of separation between me and my brothers and sisters of different races. Lord you settled it, and you have given me a country where we can see it in action. We are not perfect. But, it is only by God's grace that we have a country and that this is even possible. That is a picture of what it was supposed to be in Christ. That is a picture of what it is supposed to be forever. You have made us an example, and you have given us a high standard and a high call here. I for one say, "Yes, I agree with this high standard and high call for the United States of America." I ask that through Jesus you would finish the work. Finish it in our hearts and heal us, that we would be contrite and humble. Heal our hearts in every way. In Jesus's name I pray, amen.