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— MOVING PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION —

Your Mentality Has to Change Part III

By

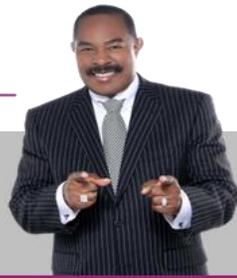
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From the desk of
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There is a distinction between what is sacred and what is secular. As an African American Pastor, I want to comment on the culture of African Americans. Conduct and appearance is important. With the number of injustices towards people of my race, it is important that the gospel of Jesus Christ teaches people to live with the knowledge and wisdom of God to build the right culture. How do we spiritually develop ourselves and our families through education and training? If Jesus appeared before you today, in this modern world, would His attire and appearance consist of some of what we see today? Would He be adorned in hoodies, unlaced brogan shoes, t-shirts, athletic wear, sweatshirts, sagging pants, sneakers, wild-looking hair, jeans with holes, hats worn backwards, tattoos, and pants so tight they are offensive to wear? Jesus would appear as He is, holy and sacred. What are our social needs culturally according to our beliefs as African Americans? There must be a difference between the world and the church when it comes to character and conduct.

Literacy of the Bible is important for our communities and developing families for Christ. It is important for individuals to be established in Christ for spiritual growth through biblical education. My objective as a pastor is to focus the church on helping to change the mentality of African American communities to live with the mind of Christ. If the church builds the culture of a family from the foundation of the word of God, the family will be safe. If a family or individual is introduced to Isaiah 54:13; Proverbs 22:6; and Ephesians 6:1-4, the culture for that family will be established by the word of God. The word of God brings security and protection for the mentality of children. When it comes to marriages, the right character and conduct for a husband and wife are written in Ephesians 5:22-33. Our marriages should be according to Jesus Christ. The African American family needs to be seen as a God-fearing unit.

What the church faces today is the world trying to redefine church. The African American church will face the culture of ravaging streets, entertainers/entertainment, Hollywood, and the Hip Hop rap artists; these are some of the influences in our communities. In the world the Devil has created this culture, and our youth and young adults have received it as a lifestyle. The African American church must stay to the valued principles of God's word. The church must not be afraid to say repentance, sanctification, godliness, holiness, righteousness, and being filled with the Holy Spirit. Our acceptance of these words and willingness to live by them is the power to change a sinful mentality.

The spirit and soul must be the focus to convert a person to Christ. The African American church must present the image of Christ to the poor, middle class, upper middle class, and wealthy black communities. The African American church must domestically build the black community. I am referencing the word domestic as it relates to family, household duties and leisure activities within our community. For a change in mentality on a domestic level within our community to occur, it has to involve God's principles on how to build a family. Culture presents social forms of life, and domestication has to be a focus for our community. Why? Because there is domestic violence within the black community. The word of God is the only way to stop violence in the home. Telling people to accept Jesus Christ releases the power of the Holy Spirit over the works of the flesh. Association with Christ means people can live and socialize together in the love of Christ. These scriptures were on my heart to doctrinally teach the African American community how to change their mentality for Christ:

1. John 3:16-21 understand why God sent His Son Jesus Christ into the world
2. Acts 2:38-39; Acts 3:19-20; Romans 10:9-13 repentance to receive Jesus Christ as Savior
3. Ephesians 5:22-33 marriage according to Jesus Christ for family leadership
4. Proverbs 22:6; Isaiah 54:13 to give children to the Lord and live under His promise for the future

5. Luke 4:18-19 allow Jesus Christ to bring His anointed power to handle problems, strongholds, and issues of life

As an African American church, this is how we are going to move our communities in the right direction.