

I would like to preface this by stating the comments hereinafter or not necessarily my thoughts or beliefs, but an exercise in showing how one may use the bible for justification of discrimination.

Discrimination & racism often conjures one ethnic group against another, but discrimination is much broader than this. We live in a culture that sees discrimination and prejudice on a regular basis, and we as Christians are not immune to this. I am overjoyed that we live under New Testament law, as the Hebrew Bible is full of examples of discrimination and prejudiced behavior. One of my favorite verses for unity is Galatians 3:28 (There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.) So how does this tie into my faith allowing me so to speak to show a prejudice against other groups? If we were to take a number of verses out of context (as is so often done), in 1 Corinthians 14:33-35 Paul is telling the church of Corinth that women should remain silent in the churches and must be in submission, as the law says. Without context, this verse could give men the thought that it is ok to show discrimination against women and keep them from being equals.

There is a constant war between the church and the LGBTQ community. It is in the news, and we hear it from TV evangelists. Pat Robertson stated "Many of those people involved with Adolf Hitler were Satanists, many of them were homosexuals. The two things seem to go together." I have heard churches state that anyone from the LGBTQ community was not welcomed in their doors. It is hard to understand this thought process when Jesus said, love, everyone as he has loved us. (John 13:34-35) John Calvin's early teachings taught five primary points. The depravity of man, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints. What this means in somewhat layman terms is God lets who he wants

in heaven and turns his back to the rest for eternity. There is nothing we can really do, cause he is God and if we could alter this, then he would not be God. Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) followed the five points of Calvinism as a basis for their bigotry, racism, and despicable acts. There are countless other theologians from the past that support this way of thinking. I believe the examples listed before are good indicators of an emotional level of prejudice.

I would love to get on a soapbox right now, but the water has spilled and the slippery surface will for sure cause me to fall down.