

## *Pk's Perspectives...* Painting with a Broad Brush?

Painting with a broad brush is good thing when dealing with the exterior of a house or ship's hull or barn...where the color is the same and attention to detail is not necessary. Painting humanity with the proverbial broad brush is never a good thing...there are simply too many nuances in the color palette of humanity to settle for something as trite as "You know those *{insert Caucasian, African-American, Asian, American-Indian, Middle Eastern, etc....}* people are all the same." Yet, we do this. We make summary judgments about the character, intentions, and actions of people based solely on the fact of their skin coloration being different from our own.

I'm glad people don't automatically discredit me because of my pale pigmentation; if they painted with a broad brush they could certainly make a case for distrusting me. Remember Ted Bundy? Caucasian dude? He confessed to sexually assaulting and killing 30 young women. When I approach a group of female Asian college students, I hope they don't look at me and think, "This guy is white like Ted Bundy was white. Danger!! RUN!!!!" Timothy McVeigh was a Caucasian American terrorist but that doesn't make all Caucasian males terrorists. Charles Manson, D.C. Stephenson, Edmund Kemper – these were some scary white dudes. I don't want to be painted with the same brush as those guys. Undoubtedly there are cases of atrocious Caucasian American males; but there are more examples of upstanding male Caucasians who display great character and faith and virtue. The same is true of every skin color group in the spectrum of humanity! And you know why? Skin pigmentation is not the determining factor for character, integrity, virtue, or intentions.

I have friends who see an African-American male walking the neighborhood streets and instinctively think, "Thug...criminal...gangs...danger." That's called painting with the proverbial broad brush. Not every African-American possesses questionable character just as not every Caucasian male is a terrorist or member of the KKK. I have friends who see a group of Hispanics and think, "Can't speak English... alcoholic...cheap laborer...Democrat." Broad brush. There are so many hues within the blacks and browns of African and Hispanic peoples...just as there are variations in the character of Caucasian peoples. Ever heard of Fred Luter, Jr? Evelyn Sanguinetti? Alan West? Condoleezza Rice? Marco Rubio? Thomas Sowell? Tony Evans? Alberto R. Gonzales? E.B. White once stated, "Prejudice is a great time saver. You can form opinions without having to get the facts."

Evaluating a person's integrity, character, and intentions requires an assessment that goes deeper than merely skin coloration. Integrity, character, and virtue are heart issues. You can't really know a person until you connect with their heart. If I'm going to love people the way Jesus loved people then I have to venture beyond the doorstep of skin color! Every clan is possessed of both exemplary role models and horribly twisted specimens of humanity. I don't want to be lumped in with the bad seed in my clan! Who would?!? So I try to practice the Golden Rule in the way I look at people; I want to be assessed by my character...so I'll appraise others by their character.

So thank-you for not automatically lumping me into the delegation of male Caucasian preachers inhabited by the likes of Jim Jones, David Koresh, Marshall Applewhite, Robert Tilton, Jim Bakker and Matthew Hale. Thanks for searching out my heart; I hope you do the same with your neighbor, co-worker, and especially the strangers and foreigners you meet on your journey. Cya Sunday in Sunday School & Worship, Pk