

**Distorted Christian Values – Equality****Intro to series**

... Judeo Christian values

“The air we breathe” by Glen Scrivener. (picture)

**The water we swim in**

... many of things western culture values highly come directly from Christianity and only from Christianity.

... believe strongly in the idea of equality.

In Roman culture ... before the Christian worldview

... it was self evident to them that people are not equal... not in any way.

**Plato (428BC-348BC)**, *“justice consists of the superior ruling over and having more than the inferior”*.

**Aristotle, (384BC – 322BC)**, *“for that some should rule and others be ruled is a thing not only of necessity, but expediency; from the hour of their birth, some are marked out for subjection, others for rule”*

... ancient near east creation accounts

Greek mythology and Roman mythology

... accepted the brutal reality that rape and violence, inequality and brutality, slavery and death by torture, are just the way things are.

**A seismic change**

... today simply assumes that Christian values are the way things have always been.

**Equality**

... how did we end up living in a world that takes equality as a self evident and basic human right?

... equally made in the image of God

**Gen 1:27** “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**John 1:1-18.**

**John 1:14** the God of the bible entered this world as a human.

... earliest graffiti ever found. (picture)

... equality of humanity.

**Gal 3:26-29.** *“You were all baptized into Christ, and so you were all clothed with Christ. This shows that you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>28</sup> Now, in Christ, there is no difference between Jew and Greek. There is no difference between slaves and free men. There is no difference between male and female. You are all the same in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> You belong to Christ. So you are Abraham’s descendants. You get all of God’s blessings because of the promise that God made to Abraham.”*

### **Distorted value of equality**

... often become individualistic and focussed on my rights.

... anger and retribution can take over.

### **Redeeming equality**

#### **1) A point of contact**

...helpful in generating deeper conversation.

... more about the moral value giver?

#### **2) Understanding our confusion**

... our society using words God likes but pursuing outcomes and lifestyle choices God does not like.

#### **3) Sharing the gospel**

... so that the foundations of people is no longer separated from the values they might want to hold dearly.

### **My one thing**