



# FAITH AND RACIAL JUSTICE

## **Prejudice (Clear Definition)**

Prejudice is a **negative attitude or belief about a person or group before you know them.**

It is:

- Based on assumptions
- Formed without facts or real experience
- Often rooted in stereotypes
- Learned from family, culture, media, or past experiences

Prejudice lives in the **mind and heart**—it’s an attitude, not yet an action.

## **What Prejudice Looks Like**

- Believing someone is “less intelligent” because of their race
- Assuming a group is “dangerous” or “lazy” without evidence
- Thinking about one group is superior to another
- Making judgments based on skin color, religion, gender, or background

Prejudice can be quiet and internal, but it still shapes how people treat one another.

## How Prejudice Connects to Bias and Racism

- **Bias** is the tendency or leaning.
- **Prejudice** is the negative belief or attitude.
- **Racism** is when prejudice and power create unequal treatment or systems.

Prejudice is the seed that can grow into discrimination or racism if not addressed.

## Why Understanding Prejudice Matters in Faith and Community Work

For clergy and community leaders, recognizing prejudice helps us:

- Love our neighbors more fully
- Challenge harmful assumptions
- Build trust across differences
- Create spaces where everyone feels valued
- Live out the love, justice, and compassion our faith traditions teach