



COMMUNITY

DIVERSITY

Objective for Learning: To understand God's heart for all people to know Him and be joined under the banner of Jesus in unity.

Objective for Living: To regularly attempt to understand and live life with people who are different than yourself politically, racially, ethnically, economically, and socially.

Objective for Reproducing: To be able to not only live this out yourself but invite others into a similar lifestyle and commitment to healthy, Kingdom diversity.

Scriptures for Diversity:

- Revelation 7:9-10
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-30
- Colossians 3:11
- Psalm 117:1-2
- James 2:1-4
- Revelation 5:9-10
- John 17:21

How do each of these Scriptures help to **define** and **illuminate** why Sunday gatherings/corporate worship is important?

Hearing (Discussion Points and Questions):

Overview:

In an age where diversity seems to be a secularized weapon, the church needs to recapture the Biblical truth and call of uniting under the banner of Jesus Christ. Diversity is not a political or workplace mantra; it is the vision of Jesus Himself. He desires to see every tribe and every tongue proclaiming His Lordship side by side, in love and unity.

Diversity is not easy. It is not natural. But it is glorious when it occurs. Because we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, we are to regularly communicate the call to live out of unity in diversity. We recognize and verbalize the truth that the Kingdom presented in Scripture is made up of a very diverse group. Multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-national, multi-lingual, multi-generational. The greater the diversity, the greater the ability to manifest this kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. It is like a sign and a

wonder in the hands of God. It is also a tool through which God reveals parts of His kingdom that do not manifest through one culture or perspective alone.

We do not call people to cease being who they are. We do not command people to give up their culture to be like another earthly culture; we call them to submit their culture to the kingdom of Jesus. We resist the temptation to lean politically left or right, understanding that each perspective comes with both insights and blind spots. We admit the temptation to believe that “they” are all the same, but “we” are unique. We recognize that all dark people, light people, eastern people, western people, old people, and young people do not think the same. We cannot approximate their viewpoint. There is a diversity and fullness even among culturally similar people. Ultimately we realize the temptation to exaggerate our differences and ignore our commonalities. And here is our commonality: Jesus. We adore and seek and experience Jesus. Together.

Questions for Learning and Living:

- How do you see the Scriptures above calling for unity amongst God’s people?
- Why is diversity such a challenge? Why do so many people and churches shy away from truly embracing diversity?
- Think through your 3-5 closest friends. Is there diversity in that mix? Why or why not?
- Where is embracing diversity a challenge for you specifically?
 - How do you think you could begin to overcome that hurdle?
- Where in your life could you do a better job of incorporating diversity into your everyday life?

Questions for Reproducing:

- What are some ways that you could think or have seen be effective in helping others become more open to the Kingdom idea of diversity?
- In what ways could your life be a portal into how to embrace diversity in your everyday life and relationships?
- What are some of the best concrete steps you could show someone to do to better understand and ultimately live out God’s call to embrace the diversity we see in Revelation’s call to every tribe and every tongue?

Doing (Implementation and Application):

- What is Jesus saying to you about this?
- How are you going to respond? Look at your personal discipleship assessment.
 - Give 1-3 concrete action steps that you are going to do this week to help you take the next step of learning, living, or reproducing in this area.
- Choose one of the Scriptures that really impacted you and commit to memorizing it this week.