



#4 Diversity

Consider...

Unity in diversity is greatly celebrated in the Bible. Our God is diverse (one, yet Father Son and Holy Spirit), and his nature is reflected in his beautiful creation! Even a simplistic look at the various eco systems that surround us can't help but leave us amazed at the way God has ordered this world around this principle of unity in diversity.

Despite all this, humanity seems to struggle with diversity. Racism, sexism, and xenophobia plague our societies. We often fear those who are different, and, rather than harnessing the different strengths and ideas that diversity offers, we retreat into social ghettos with those who are like us. The big question for us as Christians is: should we settle for this, or does God offer us the hope and means to reclaim the diverse relationships we were made to enjoy? As a Gospel Community member you will be encouraged to love, serve and care for men and women of different ages and backgrounds, as well as babies, kids, and teenagers. This might sound crazy, but as we'll see it's God's great plan for his people.

Read...

1. Read Revelation 7:9. What is God's ultimate goal for humanity?
2. Read Colossians 3:8-14. Is this vision of diversity only for when Jesus returns, or should we strive for it now in our churches?
3. According to the same passage in Colossians, how does diversity grow us in godliness?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. How does diversity benefit the church community?
4. Read Ephesians 3:6-11. What effect does the church's diversity have in the heavenly realms?

Think...

1. How do the above passages shape a person's response to the following thoughts / temptations

'I don't like my GC because there is no one else in it who is the same age; has the same personality; has the same interests; or at the same life stage.'

'I'd rather not try and talk to the International student. They're too hard to understand and I find it awkward.'

'Dealing with kids puts me out of my comfort zone, so I'd rather not engage with anything my GC does with them.'

'There aren't any other kids in this GC / Church that are the same age as mine, it will be better for them if we move GCs / Churches.'

2. What are some of the ways that God has equipped you to serve your GC?

3. Think of the other people in your GC. What are some of the ways God has equipped them to serve? How can you encourage them to serve in these ways?