

***Doesn't Christianity Crush Diversity - Colossians 3:11-14, Revelation 7:9-10***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

If you look around at the other folks in the congregation this morning, you will find that 99ish% are all Caucasian. That is the makeup of Genesis Church. That is also the makeup, I suspect, of the majority of churches in our immediate area of southwest St. Louis county. If one's exposure to Christianity is this demographic, it would be easy to think that Christianity is predominantly a white man's religion. Once you're there it wouldn't take much to get to our question this morning. Doesn't Christianity crush diversity?

History isn't silent in regards to this. When England went and conquered India, they tried to force a Christianity packaged with their western European culture on the native people. This often resulted in few converts. As missions organizations have found, one of the most effective ways to reach a people group is to send their own people, who have come to Christ, to spread that message. They understand the culture and know best how to relate to their hearers.

What about how the church in America has dealt with issues of diversity in our history? The white church is guilty of being silent while our black brothers and sisters were unfairly treated from after the Civil war up to even today in some respects. When laws were written to repress them. When those in authority abused their power and wrongly arrested them, incarcerated them, and even executed them, because of the color of their skin, where were the white Christians? Why were they not outraged? Why were they not doing more to help? I would say most, if not all of us, are too young to have been around for much of what has happened in the US. That doesn't make us completely innocent. While we may not be directly guilty of atrocities like this, are we somehow indirectly complicit?

Our passage, firstly, lays out that we are all one in Christ. It doesn't matter what our background is or what our ethnicity is. Once we come to Christ, we're family, and as family, we must learn how to properly love one another. Why is this important? Because we're going to be together for all eternity. Revelation chapter seven gives us a glimpse of this. Revelation 7:9-10 *"After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

Secondly, our passage lays out a list of Holy Spirit empowered attributes. These attributes are required if we're going to live out the message of the Gospel rightly, not only at Genesis, but also with our brothers and sisters in our region and across the globe. Having a list of attributes to work towards is very helpful but what does this look like practically? Three practical steps one can take when engaging in issues of diversity are take note, take interest, and take action.

Firstly, take note when issues or discussion regarding diversity come up in your social circle or the culture at large. Listen to understand, not to respond. We're very good at listening and keying in on things we agree or don't agree with just so we can throw out what we think. Instead, we need to be as James tells us, to be quick to hear and slow to speak. This is especially crucial when what is being discussed doesn't necessarily directly impact you. Slow down, listen, and try to determine if there is anything of legitimate concern. That's not to say everything that is said is legitimate and requires further steps, but what if there is something amongst all of it that is legitimate and we blow it off?

Secondly, take interest in those things that are legitimate concerns from step one. If

you have people in your social circle that you can have open and honest conversations with regarding the issue, seek to do so, again being careful to listen to understand. If you don't have such a social circle, reading is a good option. Read from reputable authors on whatever the subject or issue is, again in an attempt to understand more fully how this is impacting your brothers and sisters, and the culture at large.

Lastly, take action where you can. If you've noted issues in our culture that impact those that differ from you and if you've researched, had discussions, read up on said issue, the next step is to do something about it. That's going to differ from person to person and issue to issue. However, if you know there's a problem and you do nothing, you're guilty of sin as well. James 4:17 *"So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."*

**Bible Reading for the Week**

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Timothy 5	1 Timothy 6	2 Timothy 1	2 Timothy 2	2 Timothy 3	2 Timothy 4	Joshua 1

Reading from this past week: Colossians 3:11-14, Revelation 7:9-10

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Proverbs 31:10-31

**Family Worship**

Song - *Goodness of God*

<https://youtu.be/-AwLTeMyq20>

Gospel Project

Unit: The Miracles of Jesus

Story: Jesus healed sickness

Big Picture Question: Is Jesus God or human?

Answer: As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Scripture: Luke 8

New City Catechism

Question #25: Did Christ's death mean all our sins can be forgiven?

Answer: Yes, because Christ's death on the cross fully paid the penalty for our sin, God will remember our sins no more.

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Scripture

Colossians 3:11-14, Revelation 7:9-10

- How would you respond to a person who said that Christianity was a white mans religion?
- How should the vision of Revelation 7:9-10 shape our view of our faith now
- How can followers of Jesus gain a greater understanding of the struggles and values of people from other cultures?
- What are one or two steps you and your family could take to build relationships with believers who are different racially and culturally from you?

Prayer

\*Pray that we would work toward a Kingdom vision for diversity and not hold favoritism from people from other races and cultures.

\*Pray for the persecuted church and for missionaries who are serving our brothers and sisters in Christ whose faith puts their safety and lives in danger.