

" There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

WE ARE ONE IN CHRIST



We are <u>different</u>. In the body of Christ, we are not the same. We differ in many ways. We differ in our physical appearances. We have different types of hair, facial features, skin tones, and body types. We also differ in our denominational affiliations. Some are Methodist, others are Baptist, and others are Non-denominational. Furthermore we differ in our socio-economic statuses. Some are wealthy and others are not, some have a network of influential connections, and others do not. We are not all the same in the body of Christ, we are different.

We all have the <u>same</u> value. Although we are not all the same in the body of Christ, we all have the same value. In the body of Christ, God has made us all different. He has given us different gifts, and has allowed us to have different life experiences, all for the purpose of serving Him. However, the uniqueness of our individual identity, is not correlated to the measure of our worth. Meaning, we all have the same value in God's eyes. Four quarters are not the same as a one dollar paper bill, but they both have the same value. Whether you put 4 quarters, or a one dollar paper bill in the offering plate, the church treasury will have the same value. Similarly, we are all the same in the body of Christ. The value that Jesus placed upon your life, evidenced by the price paid on the cross to save your soul from Hades, is the same value placed, and the same priced paid, to redeem everyone else's life in the body of Christ. We all have the same value.

We are <u>one</u> in identity. In addition to having the same value, we also all have the same primary identity in the body of Christ. In Paul's days, some people were excluding others and also possibly looking down on them because they were of a different group. The Jews (God's chosen people) didn't want to be associated with the Gentiles; the free citizens didn't want to be seen associated with the slaves; and the men excluded or looked down on the women in their service in the church. However Paul instructed them that the walls that they were putting up to section themselves into their comfortable safe groups, needed to come down. Paul makes us aware that in order for the work of God to be done, we cannot see ourselves primarily from our small group identity, but instead, we should first see ourselves from our bigger and foundational identity. An identity in which those within these walls are all who profess faith in, and love for, the Lord Jesus the Christ.

-Your brother in Christ, WNL

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

We are different as individuals, but we all have the same value; we have various identities, but we are all one in Christ

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for making me a part of the body of Christ. Please take away any implicit biases that I have which lead me to look down on others in the body of Christ. Allow your church local and church universal to be united as one. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.



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