

Rediscover CHURCH

Why the Body of Christ Is Essential



CHAPTER 7

How Do I Love Members Who Are Different?

"People like to be around people like themselves. They feel comfortable in familiar, predictable patterns (102)."

LEADERS ASK: Do we see a unified DIVERSITY of people serving and ministering to one another in most churches today? How about in our church?

- Think about the word diversity in this context: Age, Race, Social Status, Income Range, Political ideals etc.
- Now, answer that question again.

LEADERS ASK: What would people say about our church in terms of what our people appear to be? A group that is well put together? Comfortable? or Transparent? Christians who are in need of a savior daily?

LEADERS ASK: Are we creating a sort of "community" by exclusion?

LEADERS READ: Acts 17:6 It says here that these men had turned to the world upside down. They were referring to the way in which the church was acting and bringing all kinds of people together, especially Jew and Gentile.

LEADERS ASK: Have you ever stopped to think about the reason that Jesus and His disciples and their followers into the churches in Acts created such a stir because of the TYPES of people that were brought together?

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CHAPTER 7

- What would the world say about a church that is able to bring people together from all different backgrounds under one roof, who might disagree on some political things, some church style things, etc. and worship together in gospel community? Do you think the world would notice?

LEADERS ASK SOMEONE TO READ EPHESIANS 4:1-6

- This kind of people are able to keep unity of the Spirit as the fuel for the mission. They are able to look past petty differences to engage in gospel community.
- We **MUST** understand that all parts of this church body are not only important but **ESSENTIAL!** (1 Cor. 12:24-26)

LEADERS ASK:

- If we adopt a model of unity amidst differences it could look like this:
 - Less age centered ministries. (Not completely disbanded but more thought into the 'Why'?)
 - More service among all age groups **FOR** all age groups
 - Allowing room for people who do not dress, talk, vote, or think like we do into our church understanding the Gospel is the ultimate unifying factor.
 - Providing space for people to think through difficult ideals and methods, with mercy and grace.
 - Not being unified for the sake of unity, but unified by the Holy Spirits conviction through His Word.