

Reflective of the Community



REDEEMER PAMPA

A Brief History Lesson:

Since the beginnings of the church, divisions and groupings based on ethnicity, former religion, and social status have been a battle. Jesus, in his prayer for His disciples, prayed that His followers would be one, as He and the Father are one. In Acts, we see the widows from Jerusalem and the widows from other places being treated unequally. Throughout the letters in the New Testament, we see exhortation concerning the difficulty of Jews accepting their Gentile brothers and vice versa. However, we see a continual thread encouraging all believers (whether Jew, Greek, slave, free, male, female, rich, poor, the list could go on and on) to find their commonality in Jesus to be enough to unify them.

Prone to Divide:

So let's be honest, if we get right down to it, we know that these words regarding unity hit us at the core of who we are. It is so difficult for us to branch outside our expected circles of friends and influences that we can easily predict when we go to public gathering who will be at what tables. (Think of the scene in the cafeteria in the movie Mean Girls.) We have a pretty firm sense of who belongs where. BUT THIS IS NOT THE BODY OF CHRIST.

One Body:

The body is a unit, where all who would believe are one and equal. Like the members of a body, we all need one another. Sure, some of us look different than others. We all have different ways of prioritizing our lives, different ways of spending our money, different musical preferences, different, well, everything. BUT CHRIST IS OVER ALL AND IN ALL. We desire to look like a cross-section of Pampa for these reasons:

1-Urity honors God and unity isn't complete without diversity.

2-God does not show favoritism so all sorts of people are and should be represented in His Kingdom. After all, we are all equally created in His image and we are all equally subject to the penalty of sin. None of us can earn His favor and we are totally dependent on Jesus' work on the cross. Let's commit to find our commonality in these things.

3-Prejudice is sin. No matter how you slice it. We are to wage war against our sin, even when (especially when) it's uncomfortable.

For reflection:

What prejudices might be lurking in your heart? Are you willing for God to challenge you in those areas? Take a few minutes and ask Him to help you see people the way He sees them.

For further reading/study:

Scripture:

James 2:1-8
Galatians 3:28
I Corinthians 12:12-13
Revelation 5:9-10
I John 4:19-21
Proverbs 31:8-9
Proverbs 22:2
Proverbs 14:31
Matthew 5:46-47
Ezekiel 16:49
Matthew 9:10-13