Topic: Diversity

Respecting Others

When my oldest son graduated from college his destination was San Francisco. Although he had never even visited there he was seeking the diversity of the city. San Francisco is a city that gracefully merges many different cultures and accepts people of different lifestyles.

Isn't this what God intended? Through Paul, He said for us to "*live in harmony with one another … (Romans 12:16).*

We will see diversity in heaven. In a description of the diversity of heaven we read*, 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 (Revelation 7:9).*

God shows no partiality, so why should we? *So Peter opened his mouth and said, "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to Him" (Acts 10:34-35).* Even though people are different than us, it is God who judges the actions of people – not us.

Our goal should be to embrace the Great Commission, and to love and accept everyone. *Everyone has worth. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning (1 Corinthians 14:10).* Jesus died for all mankind, not just those we agree with or look like. Our task is to help people understand God's promises for all believers, but also to treat non-believers with respect.

Our country is deeply saddened by recent tragic events. We can name the cities where people are attacked not because of who they are, but for what they are. People are making judgements based on arbitrary factors, acting like they have the right to judge the actions of others. Some people take their disrespect to extremes, rebelling against authority through violent means. What does Jesus say about how we should react when we feel we are wronged? *Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17-21).*

Scripture: *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28).*

Question: What would Jesus want us to do as we live in a country stricken with senseless chaos?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We are living in very difficult times. All too frequently we hear about attacks on people because of their occupation, their race or their beliefs. You died for all people, not just a chosen few. We pray that our country and world will find peace through your universal love for all. Amen.

Additional Verses about diversity:

Mark 10:6	Genesis 11:9	Revelation 4:11
Psalm 139:13-16	Ephesians 4:3-6	John 17:21-22