

Make Room



WEEK 4 - MAKING ROOM FOR DIFFERENT CULTURES PART 1 OVERVIEW

Returning to Paul's image of the body, we will now explore our very human tendency to want to separate ourselves from those who are not alike in culture, heritage, or language. It's easy to think the "hands" can hang out over here while the "legs" can hang out over there. But it is only when all the parts of a body are working in concert, both unified in purpose and diverse in giftings, that it can truly grow and become strong.

When we encounter different cultures, it is easy to think it makes sense for us to worship separately. However, we will see that God's desire is for us to represent the diversity of his kingdom to the world, and to be a body which is *strengthened by the different gifts and perspectives we bring to the table*. If God has brought other cultures into our midst, we can learn how to elevate their voices and contributions to make the whole body of Christ more alive.

*The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body.
So it is with the body of Christ.
1 Corinthians 12:12*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What experiences have you had travelling or interacting with different cultures? What impact did those experiences have on you?
2. In what way(s) do you think cross-cultural work can be hard?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-21.
 - a. Why do you think Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for the church?
 - b. What does it mean to you that *God has put each part just where he wants it* in the body of Christ?
4. How does 1 Corinthians 12:22-26 speak to making room for people of different cultures?
5. Barry talked about the progression from "representational missions" to "participative missions" to people of many cultures coming to Grace over time. How have you seen God at work with different cultures at or through our church?
6. Give some examples of how we, as Grace Church, can follow Paul's advice from Philippians 2:3-5 when it comes to people of different cultures.

RESOURCES

gracechurch.us