

Scriptural Diversity

In our world today, certain sectors of the country clamor for diversity. “Celebrate our diversity,” they say, “because it is our differences that make us strong. It does not matter what you believe, say, or do. All is acceptable because it shows how diverse and special we are.” This type of diversity is insidious and divides our country, our congregations, and our families.

It may surprise some to discover that the Bible discusses diversity which unites us rather than divides. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, the Bible discusses diversity. There are diversities of gifts (verse 4), differences of ministries (verse 5), and diversities of activities (verse 6). These diversities unite us because there is one Spirit (verse 4), one Lord (verse 5), and one God (verse 6). The Father, Son and Holy Spirit unite these diversities to form one body. “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ” (verse 12).

The Karns family is truly a diverse body. We have members who are gifted in preaching, teaching, healing, and giving. Our diversity of gifts unites us rather than divides because we take advantage of our scriptural diversity. Our different ministries strengthen our family. The Greek philosopher Aristotle is said to have coined the phrase, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts,” which describes “synergy.” Synergy is when people working together can achieve more than they can separately. Our church family displays this synergy when we all work toward one goal. That is why we have different gifts and talents. As different members of the same body, we can accomplish much more than we can by ourselves in serving God and sharing the good news.

So, by all means let us celebrate our diversity. Not in a worldly way that divides us, but in a scriptural way that unites us. Use your gifts or talents in a way that serves the Lord. In doing so, you are indeed a valued member of our body. After all, “...by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The elders love you and continually pray for you.

By Tony Turner,
For the elders