

Our Love of Jesus Christ is the Great Equalizer: From a Lay Leader's Perspective

Hello, Aldersgate Family!

Like me, are you ready for the warmer weather to stick around for awhile? We're heading toward June and still experiencing days in the 60's! However, I can't really complain. I love the rhythm of the seasons. Just about the time I start wearying of long stretches of days of a certain weather type, God sends me a reminder that a new season is just around the corner.

Speaking of rhythm, have you watched Pastor Lee's latest sermon? If not, do it now! He uses the metaphor of the City of Asheville's drum line and the lead drummer who sets the rhythm for all the other drummers. He reminds us that Jesus Christ is our lead drummer and he dissects the "beats" that keep us in tune with our Savior. It is a masterfully crafted sermon.

And guess what: God's timing is exquisite! I just finished reading Romans and during that time I also thought about the drum line. You see, I was on the mission trip that Pastor Lee referenced and witnessed that drum line he talked about. Besides the auditory awe of a drum line, the visual is amazing too. You see prosperous urbanites sitting next to homeless people and together they are producing a thing of beauty. What I loved about that endeavor is music was an equalizer. There was no sign of rank or privilege - just camaraderie and joy in the awesome sound they were creating together.

What struck me about the book of Romans was how Paul reminded Christians that of love of Jesus Christ is the great equalizer. *'As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame. For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"* **Romans 10:11-13.**

We who walk this earth are really into assigning people rank, usually based on their wealth, position or family ties. But that is a human construct that must seem so frivolous to God whose knowledge penetrates deep into every individual's heart. To borrow a beautiful phrase from Martin Luther King Jr. it is the condition of our hearts and souls that determine the "content of our character" and that's what matters to God.

It seems to me God has used this pandemic to turn the concept of rank on its ear. Think about it: Who are considered essential workers now? Obviously, they include the heroes often referenced - health care workers and first responders. But essential workers are the also the grocery clerks who stock our shelves; the fast food workers who wait on us when our cupboards are bare; and the truck drivers who make sure all the necessities we count on get to where we can get them. Where would we be without those folks? Yes, we all have our place in God's kingdom. Nobody is really more important to God than anyone else. Just like that drum line in Asheville, the pandemic has been a poignant reminder that access to Him is not assigned to us based on our assigned rank in life. We all matter to Him. Each and everyone of us.