

8/27/18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In His divine wisdom and love, God has provided a diverse world of human life. The differences among the races, cultures, genders and social classes are indisputable—and have often led to many disputes. The worldly turmoil and tension is not God's fault. It is a product of people's sinful pride and prejudice.

Amidst the world's vast diversity, the Lord views all humanity as he says in his word: "There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." (Romans 3:23). One race of people is not more favorable in the eyes of God than another. Nor is one social class more suitable to God than another. Every human being is a sin-stained enemy of God. Each individual shares the same desperate need for a Savior from sin.

The God of all grace points the lost human race to his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, who is true God, became fully human to rescue a lost world of humans from the guilt of their pride and the shame of their sin. Jesus died on a cross to pay the full price for all people's sins without distinguishing between culture, social status or gender. God does not judge on the basis of skin color, ethnic background or gender. Rather, God declares sinners innocent through faith in the work of his Son. *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

The Holy Spirit works faith in the hearts of believers through the good news of the gospel. Faith makes the purity Jesus has and the forgiveness Jesus offers their very own. As the Spirit continues to pour God's love and forgiveness into believers' hearts,

they can view other people in the same merciful light that God does. We see them as sinners who share the same dire need for a Savior that each of us do. We look not only to our own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Through faith in Christ Jesus we are able to view everyone from a heavenly perspective. God promises that people from every language and nation will stream together into heaven. People will be among that throng only as they despair of their own works and trust that Jesus is the Lamb of God whose blood was shed to purchase them for God. Therefore, we strive to share the good news of one faith in one Savior, Jesus Christ!

***Prayer:** Dear Savior, thank you for clearly teaching us that real and lasting unity can only be found in you. Amen.*

(WELS E-Devotion, adapted)

...See you in worship.

Keep looking up because the Lord is always looking down – Psalm 121

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