

GOD WITH US

His People. His Dwelling Place.

Love for the Nations - Ps Edwin Fillies

What is unique in the Christian biblical worldview is that **God chooses to work with us and through us**, rather than do everything himself. God wants the joy of doing it in partnership with you. He chooses to work through people not because he must, but because he delights in us and wants to include us in his business.

God Loves Diversity

*After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, **from every nation, tribe, people and language**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.*

And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10

God wants to draw us into a **love that sees across borders** and transcends differences. This is why we have different personalities, giftings, backgrounds, and languages within the body of Christ. The Trinity exists with an overflowing love, joy, and peace and God wants to draw us into that.

A good example is the New Testament writers, who being Jewish, chose to write in Greek so that more of the world could hear their account of Jesus. Peter preaching in a Gentile household in Acts 10 and Paul becoming an 'Apostle to the Gentiles' further show **God's heart to draw every kind of person into His kingdom**. Love has got no boundaries.

What is our part in this?

1. **'Love your neighbour as you love yourself'** (Mark 12:31). It is a given that we take care of our needs. Jesus takes it a step further and challenges us to love others so sacrificially that it becomes a given that we take care of the needs of others as well. We need to ask God to fill our hearts with overwhelming love for the people around us.
2. **Celebrate who God is in the people around us**. This includes the personalities that are different from our own, or perhaps we struggle to understand. Revelations 7 reminds us that God wants a body of believers who are different but united behind the same purpose. There is a place for every person, culture, tribe, nation, and language in the house of God.

It is only through the cross that God can make the Jew and the Gentile one. This is what God wants to do through the church. We use our various personalities and gifts to worship the same God. **Only Jesus can hold this together**. He is so much bigger than our style and preference. It is from this place of diverse unity that God's love overflows to the nations and His kingdom is advanced to the ends of the earth.

Reflection:

1. Have you ever felt misunderstood by other Christians? Ask Holy Spirit to reveal any hurt or unforgiveness you may have towards others because of such moments. Ask Him to show you what the truth is about who you are and how you fit into the body of Christ.
2. What can you do this week to celebrate the people around you who are different and perhaps you struggle to relate to? Ask Holy Spirit to help you to love them.