

THE *Big 3*

EPISODE: 204

TITLE: Is Cultural Diversity Realistic in the Church?

It's easy to look across the auditorium—or across the room—and ask why the church and our faith communities are so segregated and not more diverse.

Here are three things to believe and consider about celebrating and experiencing greater diversity:

1. **Diversity isn't something that happens automatically**—which should be clear from history; it's something that takes place and grows through our intentionality. But most of us live in a pretty diverse community if we choose to acknowledge and celebrate all the differences that God has *already* brought together. True, life-giving relationships with others different than ourselves take humility. We will have to lay down our pride and any snobbery we have and be willing to include, learn from, and even follow others.
2. **Cultural and ethnic diversity is a beautiful picture of what God is like.** All humans are created in God's own super-diverse image... including you! God loves everyone as much as he loves you. Jesus died for the sins of everyone regardless of their age, skin color, ethnic background, or opinions. We can discover more of what God is like when we embrace the differences in others and look for their “divine reflection” of God.
3. **Start by embracing the wide range of cultural and experiential differences that already exist within your missional community.** There is SO much to learn from one another! Let others with different backgrounds and opinions challenge your thoughts, beliefs, and preferences. Learn to bear with one another in ways that reflect the love of God you have received. If you live in a neighborhood that is more ethnically diverse than your current group, look for regular, outward-focused activities to build new relationships of trust with those people. Don't expect them to automatically love and understand you. :-)

Stay humble, be patient, and trust the Spirit to guide you in this.

In light of today's topics, you might find these posts and videos helpful:

- [These 3 Things Are True Discipleship Killers](#)

Thanks for listening... we'll see you in the next episode!

Caesar & Heath