

Day 25 Devotion

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:28-29

How often this passage is cited as among many that point directly to God's indiscriminating love and equality of status of all humans in God's eyes. Why then do we continue to treat people with different skin tones, social status, political view, gender, religion, and nationality as if there is some kind of hierarchy involved? Isn't God's model good enough?

But this same passage takes one back to the genesis of humankind when we were made different, but in God's image. So, what does that image look like exactly? We know God is both male and female (and likely all gender identifications along the spectrum) so that allows for many images. God's beloved son, a part of the trinity of God, was a man of color, not the blue-eyed, blond-haired man with pale skin. He was Middle Eastern, not European. He was Jewish, not Presbyterian, Catholic, or Baptist. He didn't care a whit about the Roman government system, other than when it oppressed people, all people. Jesus was a homeless, itinerate preacher dependent upon others in society for his welfare.

Verse 29 points out that the seeds of Abraham are among the heirs of God's promise. Judaic, Christian and Islamic religions are all Abrahamic in origin. So, where do we get encouragement from the Bible to treat others not in our own image as somehow less important, less deserving of our love, respect, and support? Makes one wonder.

Barbara Connor, First St. Marys

*Most Generous Creator of all humankind,
forgive us when we elevate ourselves over others. You love us all and equally. May we show the same kind of love, understanding and caring to others. You have given all peoples one common origin. It is your will that they be gathered together as one family in yourself. Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love and with the desire to ensure justice for all. By sharing the good things you give us, may we secure an equality for all.
(Adapted from a Catholic prayer)*

RESOURCE: [James A. White Sr.: The little problem I had renting a house | TED Talk](#)