

Be the unique you God called you to be

By John Saunders

God loves uniqueness and individuality

Romans 1:20: For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. (ESV)

Nature tells us about God.

- Have you ever seen a beautiful sunset?
- How about a beautiful flower? I did a little research, and there are somewhere between 240,000 and 370,000 species of flowering plants.
- When you look at a tree, is every branch evenly spaced, and are all the leaves the same size? If you look at two maple trees, are they exactly the same?

What does this tell us about God?

What about people? How diverse are the people that God has placed on the earth?

What does this tell us about God?

The one body of Christ is about living out our individual gifts

Romans 12:1-8

v 1-2: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Each of us is to pour out what we have in entirety, and let ourselves be transformed by God's truth.

v 3: For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

We are supposed to see things as God sees them.

v 4-5: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

Look at the human body – How different are the different organs of your body?

v 6-8: Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

Ephesians 2:10: For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Psalms 139:1-16: God is always with us, knows everything about us.

I Corinthians 12:4-11: There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Again, God emphasizes the differences in what He has given to people, and what they do, but that it is Him working in it all.

v 12-14: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.

The point again: many members, all working together.

v 15-19: If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,” is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

These verses address the lie that the adversary tries to plant in our brains about “because I’m not like someone else, I don’t really belong; I’m not really important.” This happens when we start looking at other people and comparing ourselves in a negative way. That is sin.

Especially look at v 18 – God has set you in the one body just as He pleased. You were meant to be here. You were meant to belong, in all your uniqueness.

v 20-24a: But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty, but our presentable parts have no need.

These verses address the arrogance that can creep into when we start looking at other people and comparing ourselves and thinking that we are superior. That is also sin.

v 24b-27: But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

We are all to have the same care one for another. We are all important.

v 27-31: Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

Again, God is emphasizing the diversity of how the one body of Christ works together. The more excellent way? To walk in the love of God. When you are walking in the love of God, you will put aside all the comparing and judgment which is not of God.

Summary

God shows through His work and tells us through His word that He loves uniqueness and individuality, and that is part of His design.

In particular, that is how He designed the body of Christ to work together.

Love your uniqueness, and seek to bring glory to God by pouring out your gifts.