



## **The Beautiful Community: Diversity**

### **Key idea:**

The Church becomes a beautiful community of diversity as we embrace each other with our different gifts, experiences, ethnicities, and backgrounds and submit to God's Word together.

### **Key text:**

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

<sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

### **Key points:**

1. The Church is one but formed by great diversity, flowing from the Trinity, Who is unity and diversity, the one and the many.
2. A unity based upon the Trinity is not uniformity, but a unity in diversity. This is how the Church grows and becomes strong.
3. A healthy, beautiful local church will express both unity and diversity, and will not be built upon the distortions of either uniformity or chaos.
4. To be the beautiful community of diversity will require hard work, now and until Christ returns.
5. Biblical diversity requires the 'stronger parts' to be willing to sacrifice to make sure the 'weaker parts' (those without power and position) are valued, honored, and given greater influence.

### **Questions for discussion/application:**

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?

2. When I hear the term 'diversity' today, how is it often used? How is this similar to the diversity called for in Scripture? How is it different?
3. The Corinthians elevated a few gifts, and especially the gift of tongues, above the wide variety of gifts given by the Spirit. Did Paul think this was healthy? Why or why not?
4. What does the image of the Church as the body of Christ tell me about both unity and diversity in the Church? Does this apply to the universal Church, to a local church, or to both?
5. Bret has used the terms uniformity, unity, diversity, and chaos to describe various approaches to the wide array of people in the world. Can I describe what each one of these means, and how each is different from the other? What would a church of uniformity look like? A church of unity? A church of diversity? A church of chaos?
6. Why is true diversity hard work for me? In what ways am I tempted to reject people of different backgrounds, gifts, strengths, weaknesses, ethnicities, cultures, and experiences?
7. What does it look like when the various members of a church have 'equal concern for each other'? How do we practice suffering with those who suffer and rejoicing with those who rejoice?
8. Can I think of examples where diversity brings real beauty? How would diversity add to the beauty of a local church?
9. How often do I pray for God to bring beautiful diversity to BRCC? How can I encourage and help the growth of such diversity?
10. Who will I call to encourage this week? What specific members of BRCC will I commit before God to call?

**Preview of next week: The Beautiful Community: Humble Servanthood  
(Philippians 2:3-11)**