



CHURCH DIVERSITY

- **What does diversity currently look like in your life and in your relationships?**

All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.

Proverbs 16:2 (NIV)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

- **How have your experiences shaped your belief as it relates to diversity?**

Key Thought: When there is an elephant in the room, acknowledge it. The "elephant in the pew" that we need to comfort is the lack of diversity in today's church.

- **What does the "elephant in the pew" look like in your church?**
- **What things are keeping you from addressing the "elephant in the pew" and what steps do you need to take in your church to begin the process?**
- **What challenges do you expect to encounter once you address the "elephant in the pew"? How are you prepared to handle these challenges?**

- **What is keeping you from having diversity in your own relationships? How could having more diversity in your relationships impact you in a positive way?**

Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions.

1 John 3:18 (NLT)

Practice these things; be committed to them, so that your progress may be evident to all.

1 Timothy 4:15 (HCSB)

- **Who is a leader that you admire for Doing The Right Thing when it comes to diversity? How has his or her "right thing" decisions impacted you?**
- **Why do you think corporate America has done a much better job with diversity than the church? What can you do in your own life and church to be a part of changing that?**
- **Why do you think diversity is so important to God? Why isn't it as important to you as it is to God? How will you change that?**
- **What do you think God wants diversity to look like in your church? How do you think God wants to use you in being an instrument of change in your church?**

Final Thought: Confront the "elephant in the pew" of the lack of diversity in your church. Be the change starting today. Ask God to change your heart so that you can change the heart of your church and make it the type of church He desires to see where people of all races gather together to worship Him.

Next Step: Pick up a copy of Scott Williams' book *Church Diversity* at your local Christian bookstore or by visiting www.churchdiversity.com. Be sure and take the *Church Diversity* challenge at the end of each chapter and see how you can apply principles learned from each chapter in bringing about change in your own life and in your church.

For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- How would you describe your life-style: self-centered, family-centered, or others-centered? Explain

Explore

Read Acts 2:42-47.

- How did the new believers approach what they did? (2:42)
- What unusual deeds did the apostles do? (2:43)
- How did people respond to what was going on? (2:43)
- What life-style did the early believers adopt? (2:44-45)
- Why might the early Christians have had "everything in common"? (2:44)
- How were the goods distributed among the early believers? (2:45)
- How often did the believers meet? (2:46)
- Where did the early believers meet? (2:46)
- How did the early Christians meet together? (2:46-47)
- What did the Christians do when they met together in homes? (2:46-47)
- What was the spirit of the believers in all they did? (2:46-47)

- What was the growth of the early church like? (2:47)

Reflect

- How do the activities of the early church compare with the activities of your church?
- How do you think your church should be more like the early church?
- In what ways should your church be different from the early church? Why?
- The early church was joyful, victorious, and full of praise. How would you describe the spirit of your church?
- When do you most enjoy spending time with other believers?
- Would you describe your church as self-centered or others-centered?
- What "miracles" have you witnessed in your church fellowship?
- In what ways do you see your church growing?

Apply

- What can you do to help your church be more like the early church?
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