



STRATEGIC THEME #5: UNIFIED DIVERSITY

DIVERSITY IS DIVINE ... DIVISION IS DEMONIC

NumberOne Priority

“For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.” 1 John 3:11

God’s number-one priority is people. God sent His Son to save people. He sent His Son for all; for you, for the annoying neighbour down the street, for the politicians, for the boy or girl struggling with their identity. He loves everyone and calls us to love everyone. That is a tough assignment! Sometimes we don’t “feel” love. Here’s the good news: love is a choice! I often find myself repeating the lyrics from the song ‘Against Us’ by the Christian Rapper Dee -1 “Look, I love everybody, I don’t like most of ‘em.”

We are called to love everyone - even if they are different from us. Even if we don’t like them. Even if we don’t get along with them. We are called to love and respect everyone. They, like us, are God’s creation.

One of the missions that our church supports is Teen Challenge. When Teen Challenge shared at our church on a Sunday morning, I left the service feeling encouraged and challenged. I thought about it for most of the afternoon. One of the young men shared that his first month in the program consisted of just detoxing. We see only a glimpse of what happens at these centres. Detoxing is not pretty. It is not fun. It is not nice. It’s messy.

God calls us to minister to and in this messy world. God invites the messes into His House and to His banqueting table. You and I included.

“Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.” 1 John 4:7 NIV

FAITH IN ACTION: God, You are love. Give us Your love for people and help us to treat all people as Christ did.

Remember, you are God’s number-one priority and so is the person next to you.