

MANAGING OUR DIFFERENCES

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 & Philippians 2:3-8

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How we deal with our differences makes all the difference in the world whether or not we enjoy life and experience a sense of well-being.

“Opposites attract, but if you’re not careful in about six weeks they’ll irritate.” – Stuart Briscoe

What are the differences in your family? Have you ever experienced the frustration in living with those differences?

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR SOURCES OF OUR DIFFERENCES?

- GENDER
- PERSONALITY
- EXPERIENCE

in 1960 73% of all children were living in a family with two married parents in their first marriage. By 1980, 61% of children were living in this type of family, and today less than half (46%) are.

- ETHNIC
- GIFTING/TALENT

Our differences can be our biggest asset if we learn how to embrace them.

HOW TO EMBRACE OUR DIFFERENCES?

1. ACKNOWLEDGE your differences.

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” – 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

2. Choose HUMILITY.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!”
- Philippians 2:3-8

3. FORGIVE each OTHER.

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.” – Colossians 3:13

4. LEVERAGE your differences.

“Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.” - Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” – Proverbs 27:17

WHAT DO WE DO FROM HERE?

1. ASK God to PURIFY your heart.
2. Start today by EXPRESSING to someone your APPRECIATION for the value they BRING.