

The diverse church

We live in a divided world that has been divided since the time of Adam. Adam blamed Eve, Cain killed Abel, the people's languages were confused and the nations were scattered. The divisions are a result of sin. A consequence of sin is division. In dealing with sin Jesus then also dealt with division. This dealing with division is thus evident in the church that has had its sin dealt with by Jesus.

Galatians 3; 26 – 29

1) Children of God (26 – 27)

- We are children of God through faith
 - John 1: 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God
- We were baptised with Christ – we died to sin
 - Romans 6: 1 – 4 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life
- Clothed with Christ – raised in newness of life
- A child of God is recognised by the transformation of character into Christ likeness.

2) Unity in diversity (28)

- Here we see the outworking of our salvation in dealing with division
- This is seen in the first church in Acts 2 with the first church being a mix of people from many different nations.
- Paul outlines some of the divisions that were dealt with and reveals the unity in those aspects in the church.
 - Ethnicity – Jew & Greek
 - Social – Slave and free
 - Gender – male and female
- We are one in Christ
 - He has destroyed the work of the devil
 - He has undone Adam's sin
 - He has undone Cain's sin
 - He has undone Babel
- We are known by our love for each other regardless of our various backgrounds although it's possible that we came from backgrounds of animosity.
- This is the power of God at work.

3) Heirs according to the promise (29)

- As children God has made us His heirs – heirs of the promise
- The promise given to Abraham
 - The promise is given to those who believe (v.22)
 - The same promises that were made to Israel are now available to us – Jew and Gentile alike as one body in Him.
- One seed germinated into one body incorporating all that God has for His chosen people – his body.

Let us live as children of God in unity of faith taking hold of the promise of life in Christ.