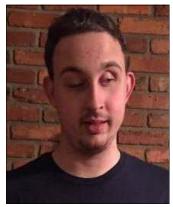


Diversity from a Christian perspective



Matt Youngblood

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Mark 3:28 CSB

The word diversity has become abundant in our culture today. It is virtually inescapable. From public schools and colleges to the workplace to the smallest of churches, diversity is pretty much present. I

want us to explore the good and bad of diversity.

Let us start by defining the word itself. According to the dictionary, diversity means "the condition of having or being composed of different elements." In other words, to be diverse is to have a variety. The "elements" include race and culture. Diversity of race is acceptable in the church because God created all humans of all races. He created the entire human race as we know it to exist. It is amazing to think how unique and special each and every one of us is.

There is a kind of diversity though that is not necessarily good for a church. Diversity of values is what I am talking about. The most important thing you can have, aside from a relationship with God is Biblical values, something religious and non-religious people alike have. Therefore, diversity of values is not particularly good for a church.

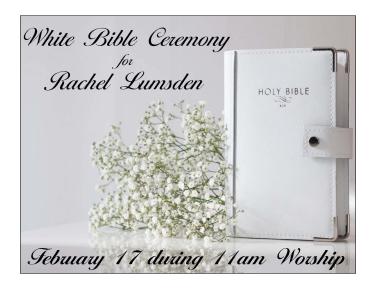
Picture the following scenario: you have just moved to a new town and are looking for a new church to attend. You visit several churches in town, but one particular experience stands out for all the wrong reasons. The service flows smoothly, but the social environment is not "light of the world" bright. After talking with some members of the congregation, you draw the conclusion that this is a church in which members believe different things about various theological questions. Some do not believe homosexuality is a sin. Some people are pro-choice. Some do not believe Satan exists.

What can explain the diversity in this church? Answer: diversity in fundamental values. The church described above is a church in crisis. The people there are in need of a unifier. Little do they know it is right in front of them, Jesus Christ.

The Bible outlines the values and principles that are needed to live a godly life. As God's creations, members of a church and the body of Christ, we have to be united on the foundational, fundamental truths of the Bible. We are all sinners in need of a Savior, Jesus Christ who died for all sins for all humanity and He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. The church exists to go and bring this message to all people of different languages, backgrounds and cultures all over the world. I believe that individually, we have a divine appointment with God to tell somebody somewhere the good news of the gospel of Christ. As long as the church is focused on its mission, diversity will be an afterthought. We are temporarily diverse, but eternally, we are One.



Seasoned Saints at their January outing in Hamilton. Join them on February 8 at 10:00 a.m. when they leave for The Brown Bag in Nashville, where they serve fresh made to order sandwiches, salads, and soups. Here's one of the recent reviews on their Facebook page: "Love, love, LOVE The Brown Bag!! I have never had a sandwich or soup I didn't like. The grape, pasta, and broccoli salads are amazing. Can't beat their award winning chicken salad!!"



MR. AND MRS. KEITH LUMSDEN REQUEST THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE

At the marriage of their daughter

Rachel Sarah Lumsden to

Clinton Bishop Brannen, I V

SATURDAY, THE NINTH OF MARCH TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN HALF PAST TWO O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

BYROMVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH 713 PATTERSON STREET, BYROMVILLE, GEORGIA

Hor d'oeurve reception to follow

HALF PAST FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON HUMMINGBIRD HILL FARMS 2000 GA HIGHWAY 127, PERRY, GEORGIA

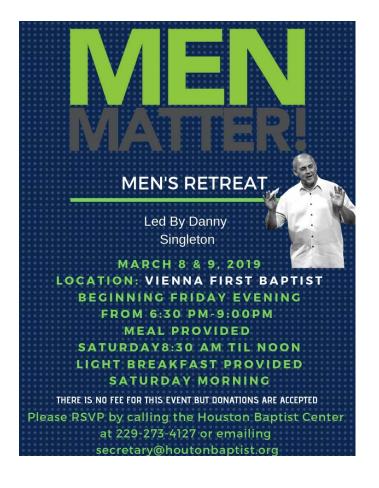
FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT theknot.com/us/rachel-clinton

NEW TIME 4 SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

5PM

EXPECT SOMETHING DIFFERENT







Birthdays

2-1	Hilda Brackett	2-8	Andy Collier	3-1	Rebekah Bowen
2-2	Judy Brock	2-10	Michelle Anderson	3-2	Jurelle Godfrey
	Myrtle Fountain	2-11	Cheryl Christopherson	3-3	Cami Neisler
	Brent West		Tyler Thompson		Mike Raper
	Michael Huckaby	2-14	Michelle Kitchens	3-4	Kohl Cavanah
	Gary Weeks, Jr.	2-15	Jon Brinson		Teresa Neisler
2-4	Misty Chappell	2-18	Janet Lamberth		Mary Beth Reed Rogers
	Adam Everidge		Shealee Norris	3-5	Jared Averill
	Bryan Hunter	2-19	Tyler Sledge	3-7	Brenda Dorsett
	Richard Thomas, Jr.	2-20	Anisa Woods	3-8	Lea Averill
	Alison Willingham	2-22	Ed Eaton		Clete Roberts
2-5	Pam Crutchfield	2-24	Clinton Brannen		Wendy Williams
	Ricky Stephenson	2-26	Sterling McCullum		•
2-6	Tony Bodrey	2-28	George Massey	Please	e pray for these folks
2-7	Misty Thompson	2-29	Lillian Gresham		ir birthday.

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY	
Sunday School 10A	۱M
Worship 114	۱M
Worship 5F	PM
WEDNESDAY	

Nursery for all services. Children's Church for Sunday 11AM Worship.

Prayer Meeting 7PM

Schedule of Volunteers for February					
Please remember it is up to you to arrange coverage if you are unable to serve on your scheduled day.					
Date	Nursery AM	Children's Church	Deacon of the Week	Offering Bearers	
Feb. 3	Robin/Mark Peavy	Joanna/Clay Vaughan	Arthur Roney	Mark Smith Quint Smith	
Feb. 10	Brenda Lockerman	Vicki Lamberth Robin Peavy	Joe Kent	Denny Rogers Buck Thompson	
Feb. 17	Briana/Tricia Kent	Jenn/John John Averifll	Arthur Roney	Jimmy Lockerman Matt Youngblood	
Feb. 24	Ansley/Cal Scarborough	Alison/Taylor Willingham	Joe Kent	Carson Godfrey Tracy Gregory	

January Sunday School Stats

Senior Adults	3
FBIC	17
CIA	4
Young Adults	5
Youth	0
Older Children	0
Younger Children	5
Older Preschoolers	5
Younger Preschoolers	5
Nursery	2
General Officers/Musicians	4
TOTAL	40



Thank you for the generous check. Your gift goes toward helping us save the life of the baby and the mother. We present the plan of salvation to each mother as we discuss with her how we help her keep her baby. Thank you for your support.



Financial \$ummary

December receiptsGeneral offerings.10,947.00Special-Mail Box Club/Pregnancy Care Ctr.39.00Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.2,375.00Interest from CD.4.11TOTAL13,365.11
December disbursements General expenses 2,953.94 Mailbox Club 188.25 Pregnancy Care Center 188.25 Local missions 250.00 Houston Baptist Association 393.35 Cooperative Program 1,022.71 TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 4,996.50

YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY

	Budget	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Receipts	121,255.92	110,895.05	-10,360.87
Expenses	121,255.92	110,213.42	-11,042.50





Lockerman at POB 217, Byromville, GA 31007, email to brendalockerman@windstream.net or call 478-433-2791.

Byromville Baptist Church

713 Patterson Street † POB 126 Byromville, GA 31007 www.byromvillebaptistchurch.com 478-433-2505

