

DIVERSITY, INDIVIDUALISM, & COVENANT COMMUNITY

Deuteronomy 12:1-14

Deuteronomy 29:19-21

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What does it mean to be part of a “covenant community”?
- Is there a right and wrong way to worship God? What aspects of worship do you think are okay to change or alter and which aspects are necessary for it to be Christian worship as instructed by God?

God created each of us to be unique individuals, yet he calls us into covenant community with each other and with himself, just as he called Israel to be his covenant nation. Are there times where our desire to be ourselves conflicts with our calling to covenant community? Studying Moses’ warning to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 12 helps us understand the fine line between diversity and individualism as well as the effect each has on our covenant community and how we worship God.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- When Israel took over the Promised Land, God instructed them to destroy all remnants of the previous inhabitants’ religious practices. Reflect on that and today’s cultural attitude of tolerance. What is different between then and now that makes this a command we do not follow to the letter of the law in our current circumstances? How can we carry the heart of the matter into our own lives and worship?
- In which areas of your spiritual life are you most tempted to do things your own way instead of the ways God prescribed in the Bible? What is it about this/these particular area(s) that sparks the defiant or rebellious or indifferent attitudes in you?
- Reflect on how a covenant community is different from a genetic family or an ethnic community. What are the benefits and drawbacks of participating in a covenant community?
- Do you ever think about how you can intentionally pass on your Christian faith and relationship with God to the next generation? In what ways can you do this as a parent or as a member of God’s covenant community?

Related Passages

- **John 4:1-42**
- **Psalms 121**
- **Galatians 6:7-10**

Conclusion

Evaluate your spiritual walk. Are you doing it alone or with a community? How does it fit with God's design as expressed by Moses in Deuteronomy 12:1-14 and 29:19-21? How is God challenging you, through these passages, with regard to his covenant community. Seek the Lord in prayer and heed the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/diversity-individualism-covenant-community>

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