



Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

One of the many blessings God has given us is the ability to think, reason, feel and express ourselves. On the other hand, one of the greatest *challenges* God has given us is the ability to think, reason, feel and express ourselves. It is both a blessing and a challenge. We see it manifest itself in both ways in the world around us: the joys *and* the challenges of our diverse personalities, opinions and views on how things should be. What do we do when we reach a crossroads and cannot agree with someone on something which is vitally important to us, and around which we hold a lot of passion? We see this clashing of views all around us: in politics, in relationships, and even within the global and denominational church. So, what do we do when we cannot see eye-to-eye?

We turn to the Cross. The Cross is the uniting factor in our lives. Jesus talked, interacted with and ate with sinners (that's us), and loved them and brought them into the fold so that they might have the abundant life He alone offered. He didn't die for the righteous, because none of us are righteous, on our own. But because He died for the unrighteous we have been made righteous, through Him. This is not our own doing, but is the work of the Lord, and "*it is marvelous in our eyes*" (Psalm 118:23).

Because of the Cross, we have all have been made worthy, despite our differences and the challenges of that diversity. This is the uniting power of the Cross. This is the only truth we can hold onto when all else seems topsy-turvy in the world. If we can look at our siblings with whom we disagree and say "God died for you as well as for me" then perhaps we can learn to love one another in the midst of the struggle. Knowing that God loves our enemies just like He loves us is a humbling thing; and that's good, because humility is essential to getting past the challenges of differences.

Look to the Cross. Fall before the Cross. Marvel at the Cross and all that it means for our lives. Thanks be to God for being *with us*, and for *putting up with us*, as we work to find the way towards Unity.

Have a great week!! Peace be with you all.

Pastor Kara

