

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

Psalms 2, 16, 22, 110 & 118

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 6 of 14



Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

The American Church:

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

The American Church:

- Churches tend to be deeply segregated along generational, racial, socioeconomic, educational and other lines.
- For example, at the start of the 21st Century **only 5.5%** of Christian congregations were racially mixed.¹
- This is not the model the Bible presents to us.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

About This Series:

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

About This Series:

- When we build our identity on the Bible's complete story or *metanarrative* we still validate our individuality.
- More importantly, We find our primary **identity in Christ**.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

About This Series:

- **Our identity in Christ** provides the inner motivation that compels us to unite rather than divide.
- Rather than negating differences, our identity in Christ transcends them in a bigger story that all Christians share.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

About This Series:

- The Bible's story explains the world and our place in it.
- Our identity in Christ explains the most important thing about us.
- This gives us the stable footing we need to engage the culture rather than the culture engulfing the church.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

- The Goals of This series:

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

- The Goals of This series:

1. To gain a better understanding of the Bible's *metanarrative* – the **big story** that takes us from **Genesis** to **Revelation**.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

- The Goals of This series:

1. To gain a better understanding of the Bible's *metanarrative* – the **big story** that takes us from **Genesis** to **Revelation**.
2. To see how **our individual identities** become more meaningful as we find our primary identity in Christ.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

- The Goals of This series:

1. To gain a better understanding of *the Bible's metanarrative* – the *big story* that takes us from **Genesis** to **Revelation**.
2. To see how *our individual identities* become more meaningful as we find our primary identity in Christ.
3. To accept that *our identity in Christ* is something shared, and is a basis for unity with diverse others in the church.

Unity, Diversity, and Our Identity in Christ

- The Goals of This series:

1. To gain a better understanding of the Bible's *metanarrative* – the **big story** that takes us from **Genesis** to **Revelation**.
2. To see how **our individual identities** become more meaningful as we find our primary identity in Christ.
3. To accept that **our identity in Christ** is something shared, and is a basis for unity with diverse others in the church.
4. To appreciate biblical diversity as a **spiritual strength** that expresses itself in the people and ministries of our church.

Previously in this series

Previously in this series

A Shared Origin: The Story of Creation

Genesis 1 – 2

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 1 of 14



Previously in this series

A Shared Tragedy: Sin and Its Effects

Genesis 3 – 11

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 2 of 14



Previously in this series

A Shared Promise: The Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 3 of 14



Previously in this series

A Shared Standard: The Law of Love

Leviticus 19, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ



Part 4 of 14

Previously in this series

A Shared King: The Covenant with David

2 Samuel 7

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ

Part 5 of 14



A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- David is the named author in 73 of the Psalms, more than all other named authors combined.
- God, as we saw last week, made a remarkable covenant with David – regarding his son and regarding his dynasty. ²

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- God promised that a son of David would reign forever.
- As King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ is more than the king of Israel – he is truly Lord of all.
- Our king is the Lord Jesus Christ and we are all his subjects.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- When Jesus revealed himself to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, in **Luke 24:44-47** (ESV) he explained,

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Let's begin in Psalm 2.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Let's begin in **Psalm 2**.
- And now let's see how the early church understood this as happening before their eyes.
- See **Acts 4:23-28**, where Peter and John are taken into custody and then released by the Jewish authorities.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- These earliest believers saw Jesus as God's Anointed – the Messiah – of the Psalm.
- The nations, the peoples and the rulers plotted against him.
- But the nations and the ends of the earth are all ultimately his to rule.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Bible trivia: In Acts 4:25, Psalm 2 is attributed to David.
- The psalm itself is technically anonymous.
- Earlier we said that 73 of the psalms listed David as author.
- Bump that to 74, based on an inspired New Testament.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Now let's move to **Psalm 16**.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Now let's move to **Psalm 16**.
- And we'll follow it up with **Psalm 110**.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Now let's move to **Psalm 16**.
- And we'll follow it up with **Psalm 110**.
- Peter refers to both of these in his **Pentecost** sermon.
- See **Acts 2:22-36**.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- Next turn to **Psalm 118**.
- This is the final psalm in the *Hallel* prayer (**Psalms 113 – 118**) which is part of a traditional **Passover Seder**.
- Jesus and his disciples probably recited it at the last supper.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- The crowd brings up **Psalm 118:25-26** as Jesus enters Jerusalem on what we call Palm Sunday.
- See **Matthew 21:9** (ESV).

And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- After telling a parable, Jesus brings up **Psalm 118:22-23** in **Matthew 21:42** (ESV).

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’”?

- He is talking about himself.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- The death of Christ is described in **Matthew 27:45-50** (ESV).

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- As he died on the cross Jesus drew his bystanders' attention to **Psalm 22**.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- **Psalm 22:22-31** Notice how in the last section, the Lord will be praised by all kinds of people.
- We see the prosperous and the afflicted, all the families of the nations, a coming generation, and a people yet unborn.

A Shared Songbook: Christ in the Psalms

- We have to agree with the shortest Psalm that says,
- **Psalm 117** (ESV)

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

² For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

Praise the LORD!

A Shared Songbook

Conclusions

A Shared Songbook Conclusions

- God decided that the house of David would be his channel for founding his kingdom on earth.²
- According to the Scriptures, God's chosen king is his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Shared Songbook Conclusions

- **Psalms** is the book of the Bible that most uniquely bears the mark of David's influence.
- No surprise then, that in it we see many references to the coming King.

A Shared Songbook Conclusions

- The **Psalms** are passed down to us as the prayers, praise and prophecy of the people of Israel.
- They refer to Christ's crucifixion, his resurrection, and his rule over the nations.
- They come to us from the people of Israel, but they truly belong to us all.

A Shared Songbook Conclusions

- Let's pray for God to give us the supernatural insight to:
 1. See Christ clearly in the Psalms.
 2. Become more fully submitted to him as his loyal subjects.
 3. Share Christ's heart for the nations.
 4. See others around us, whatever their background or present condition, as objects of Christ's love.

A Shared Songbook Conclusions

- Finally, may the Lord make us as a church
 1. Even more unified
 2. Even more diverse
 3. So fully identified with Christ that God's nature, love and wisdom will be evident to us and to the outside world.

Next Week

A Shared Expectation: The Nations in Prophecy

Isaiah – Malachi

Unity, Diversity and Our Identity in Christ



Part 7 of 14

Reference List

1. DeYoung, Curtiss, Michael O. Emerson, George Yancey, and Karen Chai Kim. 2003. *United by faith: The multiracial congregation as and answer to the problem of race*. Kindle edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2.
2. See discussion in VanGemeren, Willem. 1988. *The progress of redemption: The story of salvation from creation to the New Jerusalem*. Grand Rapids: Academie Books, 230-232