

Title: **Diversity, Identity & Community**  
Text: **Colossians 3:11-14**  
Date: **November 13, 2022**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

The Gospel recognizes, redeems and reconciles our (cultural) differences as a church community.

### 1. Jesus u\_\_\_\_\_ people of d\_\_\_\_\_ backgrounds (v.11)

(cf. Galatians 3:28, 5:6, 6:15; Colossians 4:10-11)

E\_\_\_\_\_, c\_\_\_\_\_, and socio-e\_\_\_\_\_

The i\_\_\_\_\_ -cultural church vs. the m\_\_\_\_\_ -cultural church.

### 2. R\_\_\_\_\_ who we a\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ (v.12a)

(cf. 1 Peter 2:9-10)

### 3. Put on the "c\_\_\_\_\_" of Christ (v.12b)

(cf. Galatians 5:22-23)

### 4. P\_\_\_\_\_ with & f\_\_\_\_\_ each other (v.13)

(cf. Matthew 18:21-35, Ephesians 4:32, Proverbs 10:12)

The indicative: What God has d\_\_\_\_\_

The imperative: What God commands us to d\_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Put on the "o\_\_\_\_\_" of l\_\_\_\_\_ (v.14)

(cf. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, 1 Peter 4:8, 1 John 4:11)3. The Joy (vv. 52-53)



## Reflection Questions

- In what ways do we see (ethnic, cultural, socio-economic) diversity in our church? How have you seen these differences divide or separate us from each other? In what ways have you learned more of who God is through those different than you? What does it mean to be a Christian \_\_\_\_\_?
- When you look in the mirror (or think of yourself), what descriptions come to mind? In what ways do you forget (or need to be reminded of) your identity in Christ?
- Which of the 5 attributes from v.12b are evident -- or perhaps lacking -- in your life these days? Which characteristics are areas of growth?
- Are there people whom you need to forgive? How might knowing God's forgiveness empower you to truly forgive others?
- In what ways have you seen (and experienced) God's love bring and build unity in this diverse church community? How might our church be a witness to those around us of the Gospel message of diversity, unity, forgiveness and love?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

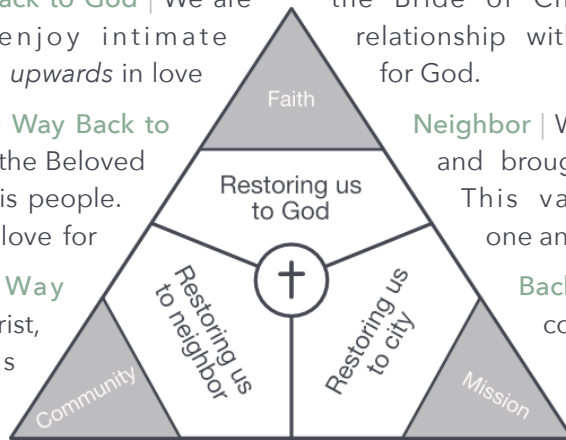
**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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**Web:** [mercyhillchurch.org](https://mercyhillchurch.org)



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Mercy Hill Youth Hangout + Service Project!

All Mercy Hill Youth (6th thru 12th grade) are invited for a hangout after service today at 12:30pm! We'll have time for fellowship, prayer, and getting in God's Word. We'll meet up at the picnic tables in the pavilion around the back of Allen at Steinbeck Elementary.

Also, next Saturday (11/19) from 1:00-4:00pm, we'll be going together to volunteer at Sacred Heart Community Services in the afternoon to help put together food boxes for families in need. Please make sure to sign-up online. Students under 18 will also need to bring a signed permission slip.

Find the pertinent links by scanning the QR code below.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at [youth@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:youth@mercyhillchurch.org).

### Share Thanksgiving with International Students!

Many international students are never invited to an American home. We have the opportunity to invite international students to our homes for Thanksgiving lunch or dinner. If you would like to have two or more students at your home for Thanksgiving dinner, let us know!

If you are interested or have any questions, feel free to reach out to Becky Durstenfeld at [beckydurstenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:beckydurstenfeld@gmail.com).

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