

Genesis 1: 26

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...."

Freedom is not the lack of constraint. It is being who each one of us, created in the image of God, is intended to be. (Augustine)

Ephesians 4: 11 – 16

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

I John 3: 2, 14

Dear friends, now we are God's children, and it hasn't yet appeared what we will be. We know that when he appears we will be like him because we'll see him as he is. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death.

Revelation 7: 9

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.

John 10: 14, 16, 27

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.

REFLECTION (for the week ahead):

Think about your life, the seasons of life. How do you die and rise again in Jesus Christ, each day?

Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next.
Amen.

More information:

Anti-racism Digital Library - <http://endracism.info/>
Anita Coleman - <http://anitacoleman.org/>
Eyes on Christ (gardening, 24/7 Christianity)
<http://myeyesonchrist.blogspot.com/>

April 30, 2017

10:15 am – 10:55 am

**DISCIPLESHIP AND DIVERSITY
IN THE BIBLE**

*Mary Buck Peace & Justice Adult Ed Series,
Grace First Presbyterian Church, Long Beach*

Speaker: Anita Coleman. Ph.D.

Welcome and Eastertide Blessings!

Goal for the Session: To explore key Bible verses to guide Christian discipleship in a plural and multicultural society.

If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. However, I have chosen you out of the world, and you don't belong to the world. This is why the world hates you. John 15: 19

But our citizenship is in heaven... Philippians 3:20

- What are the markers of your Christian identity?
- What does it mean to be in this world but not of it?