

C. We **believe** prejudice is evil and sin (2:4-9).
Prejudice is treating one type of person with more **respect** than another type of person.

- Prejudice is **evil** (v 4).
*“13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.
14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”*
Psalm 139:13-14
- Prejudice is **sinful** (v 9).
“Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.” James 4:17

D. We love our neighbors as **ourselves** (2:8-9).
*“36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”
37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’
38 This is the first and great commandment.
39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”* Matthew 22:36-40

“Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”
Matthew 7:12

**I LOVE MY CHURCH BECAUSE
WE VALUE OUR DIVERSITY!!**

**I LOVE MY CHURCH
We Love Our Diversity
Pastor Steve Reynolds**

INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus loves the church and so should you!!
“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,” Ephesians 5:25

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Matthew 16:18
- B. People from all walks of life from all over the world call Capital Baptist Church “home” and love this church. In this series, we will examine six core values of our church which cause us to love this church so much.
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|--------------|---------------------------|
| August 19 | We Love Our Bible |
| August 26 | We Love Our Children |
| September 2 | We Love Our Growth |
| September 9 | We Love Our Groups |
| TODAY | We Love Our Diversity |
| September 23 | We Love Our Outreach |
| September 30 | We Love Our Church Family |

C. **TEXT:** James 2:1-9 (Pew Bible/Pg 1184/New Test)

We are a multi-ethnic, multi-generational mission focused church.

WE LOVE OUR DIVERSITY

I. WHY DO WE LOVE OUR DIVERSITY?

A. To be like God.

“For there is no partiality with God.” Romans 2:11

“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.” Acts 10:34

“But from those who seemed to be something—whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man—for those who seemed to be something added nothing to me.” Galatians 2:6

B. To reach and reflect our community.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, ...”
Matthew 28:19a

C. To experience heaven on earth.

*“9 And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”* Revelation 5:9-10

*“9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,
10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* Revelation 7:9-10

D. To show genuine love.

“Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8

E. To answer the Lord’s Prayer.

“20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” John 17:20-23

II. HOW DO WE LOVE OUR DIVERSITY?

A. We follow the example of Jesus (2:1).

“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” Romans 15:7

“3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,”
Philippians 2:3-5

B. We provide a welcoming environment for everyone (2:2-7).

“8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for “love will cover a multitude of sins.”

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.”
I Peter 4:8-9

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,”
Acts 17:26