

Today's message is a response to what Paul wrote because of a speech that Caesar had made. He was already talking with the Corinthians about some of the opportunities they were having in Corinth. It was this major area where everybody was coming in and going out, and they had so much confusion because of all the different people that were there. All the different nationalities, all the different races, all the different religious beliefs. And Caesar gave this speech about the body and how the Roman Empire is the body and that everybody has a place in that body. But they need to remember where their place is. They need to remember that the different cast, the different classes all have a specific job within the body and not to overstep. They should know their place. They shouldn't try to become more than what they are, and they just need to accept that what they do is their job. Their place within the Empire is their place. Don't overstep, don't become more than who you are. Don't become more than who they think you're supposed to be.

We hear that a lot today. We hear a lot today, people telling other people don't overstep. Don't change. Don't try to be more than who you are. I was in a meeting two weeks ago now, and I heard somebody say "those people," and you know how I feel about saying those people. Those people need to be less uppity. They need to accept that they don't belong. Now in your head right now. Who are those people? Who do we think those people are? The sad part is just by saying those people, at least five different things can come up into your head. Those people can be based on race. Those people can be based on gender. Those people can be based on sexual orientation. Those people can be based on age.

I get yelled at frequently in meetings because people look at me, and they tell me that I'm entitled because I'm white. I'm male. I'm heterosexual, and I'm an empty nester, Right? We know I'm not an empty nester. I have a six-year-old. But people assume because they look at me that I'm one of those people, and a different one of those people than what we think. And that's what Paul's writing about today: that in Jesus, we don't have those people. We don't have a need to be classified as that. There is no Jew or Gentile. There is no free or slave. In his later letters, he goes on to say there's no men or women because we are all of the one body, The body of Christ. We are all significant in that part. There isn't a need to qualify us by our race, by our color, by our gender, by any of that. Because we are all one in God's eyes, That's what today is about.

Today is World Communion Sunday. We will be celebrating communion with everyone in the world. In about 10 minutes, and I'm not going to talk that long. In about 10 minutes, everybody in the U.S is supposed to be doing it at the same time based on their church, based on their faith, to remind us all that we are of one body. To remind us all that Paul even said none of it matters. We don't need to keep separating ourselves. We don't need to keep designating that we are better than others because of one foolish idea.

But we have to do it. We have to do it because it's an Earthly thing. It's an Earthly thing that we think is important, and it's hard to overcome that. Generations have told us that we are better than somebody else. For whatever reason, we're better than somebody else because we're an athlete. We're better than somebody else because we're smarter than they are. We're better than somebody else because we're faster. We're better than somebody else because it's whatever needs to make you feel good about yourself. We shouldn't have to look to that sort of thing, making some tearing somebody else down to make us feel better. God is here to make us feel better. They are here to remind us that we are all their children. They're here to share that

love with everyone. And that's what today is about, sharing God's love. Jesus is sacrificed for everyone in the world, not just within these four walls.

It's a wonderful thing to think about that. There are so many other people right now sharing the same thing we're going to be sharing. Believing that there is more to them today than just themselves. That there's more to them today than just those in these four walls. It's a wonderful thing that we're all going to share together.