

How God Can Create Beauty in Diversity

By Faye Waidley



In the Japanese culture there is a pottery technique called Kintsugi which means “golden seams” or “golden repair.” It is the process of repairing broken pottery by using gold lacquer to put shattered pieces back together. The golden seams highlight the cracks creating a beautifully redesigned, re-membered piece of art.

That reflects who we are as His vessels, as His bride, as His people.

Initially, I saw this analogy through an individualized lens. *I saw myself* as that piece of pottery and how God creates beauty out of my brokenness through the power of His Spirit. *But* upon deeper reflection, as I prayed and meditated upon being unified in Christ, I see how the “kintsugi” pottery can be reflected *in us collectively as His body of believers*.

My heart laments for broken unity

In recent days, the polarization in the U.S. has unfortunately invaded the body of Christ. (And may I also honestly say, it has also invaded us as Cru.) Jesus knew we are a fickle people. He knew above all else love would be the one shining light that would dispel the darkness of this broken world.

I believe it grieves the Holy Spirit to see how we are not loving one another as Jesus desired. This is my prayer for us as His disciples: that God would give us a new heart and new Spirit towards one another. We need to stay connected and seek to build bridges and not walls. This will require our eyes and hearts to be opened and transformed by the Spirit of God turning our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh toward one another and to the world.



Just as the Holy Spirit filled the room and transformed people in the early church, so I believe He can still do that today. Through the power of His Spirit, the Church can be united in oneness giving preference to one another, sacrificing for one another, and providing for one another as each has need as it was in the early church of Acts. We must learn to acknowledge one another’s pain and seek to love one another to bring healing. This recreates us as a beautiful example of “kintsugi.”

My heart laments for how we struggle to reflect this to the world. Oneness or unity is not uniformity. In John 17:23 Jesus states, *‘that they may be one as we are one. I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.’* Jesus and His Father are so deeply united as one, and our triune God is not *monolithic*. We, as His Imago Dei, are not *monolithic* either. As Jesus prayed, we are to reflect Jesus and His Father’s oneness and unity. This unity cannot just happen externally but it is an internal transformation of our hearts so that we too would reflect God’s heart.

Paths to unity

To move toward unity, my hope and prayer is that we, in the body of Christ, will:

- Lay down our hardened theology.
- Embrace the discomfort of diversity.
- Enter one other’s world.
- Learn one another’s story.
- Lament with those who have experienced pain.
- Help one another.
- Work together towards a kingdom of unity in Jesus.



Throughout the Scriptures, diversity and unity are woven throughout God’s story. And when our suffering Messiah arrived, he demonstrated what it meant to love and go to the other side to take His hope and message of salvation to all and every. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will open the eyes of our hearts to the beauty of our diverse world and give us the strength to face the challenges that diversity brings.

In Revelation 22:2 and Ezekiel 47:12 God highlights *all kinds of trees* whose fruits are abundant and its leaves are for the healing of nations. This is a picture I believe we will reflect as we learn to love and live in unity as God calls us to be. Then, we will be fruitful in due season and will be a presence for the healing of nations.

Where do you feel God calling you to grow in unity and understanding?

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Faye has been on Cru Staff for 40 years and currently serves as the City Director of Oneness and Diversity. She believes God has called His people to be bridge builders in our current polarized world and seeks to live out that reality through her life and ministry.