

Diverse Worship
Malachi 1:6-14
Sermon Discussion Questions
July 5, 2020

1. This week's message centers on worship and the kind of worship that God desires from His church. Pastor Jim mentioned that the kind of worship God wants and the kind of worship God deserves involves the fact that he is not just God of Israel, but the God of all nations. Prior to the sermon, how much thought had you given on if the type of worship we have been offering is what God desires from us? If you have thought about it, share your thoughts with the group. If you haven't thought about it, is there a reason it hasn't crossed your mind?
2. Pastor Jim mentioned in reference to Genesis 9 & 11 (people filling the earth, the Tower of Babel and God forcing humanity to scatter after their defiance) that God's plan all along was to bring different races together in Jesus so that God in Jesus would receive the diversity of praise that He is due. As a group, **read James 2:1-9**. Pastor Jim also mentioned that one reason multi-cultural worship isn't seen as much at Calvary is due to favoritism. Do you think there is favoritism/preference in Calvary that hinders desired worship to God? If so, where is this behavior learned? Are there any favorites/preferences you personally have that could hinder worship?
3. As a group, **read James 1:5** and **James 3:17**. In examining how we move towards God's vision of diversity in worship, one way is to make decisions out of God's wisdom and not from human wisdom. In what ways can you seek God's wisdom above your own as it relates to diversity in worship? What would our church and our culture around us look like if we exercised Godly wisdom over our own?
4. As a group, read **James 2:12-13**. Eliminating racism or favoritism is not enough to fix what's going on in the church and in our culture. It has to be replaced with mercy. How can Calvary church show mercy to those of different cultures and ethnicities who come through our doors? How can you personally show mercy to individuals of different cultures and ethnicities in your places of influence (Your family, occupation, friend group and etc.)?
5. **God is a great God!** And one of the ways this is reflected is by having people from every tribe, nation and tongue united together in praising the name of Jesus. Spend time praising God for the work and worship that's already happening in Calvary church. Also, spend time in prayer repenting of past sins, known or unknown, that has hindered this desire of God to become reality in His church. Pray asking God that His spirit would empower us to exercise Godly wisdom and to be bold by extending mercy to others. Also pray that day by day, Calvary church grows more into the church God desires for us to be and that we would welcome it with open arms.