

Diversified Praise

God created everything and everyone to praise him, but we were not created to praise him in the same way. There are no two people alike. Our personalities are different. We all express ourselves differently. God made us that way and he prefers we stay that way. He does not want me to express my praise the way he wants you to do it. He deserves, he desires, he enjoys variety and diversity in praise.

Yes, he wants unity but not uniformity. We enjoy a choir because people sing different parts in harmony.

Here in Colorado the state flower is the columbine, of which there are at least eight kinds. But our Rocky Mountains are not filled with only these unique flowers. No, what makes the mountainside beautiful is the sight of hundreds of varieties of wildflowers that, together or individually, take turns blooming - almost year-round.

People know you by your looks. They recognize you because of your appearance.

No one looks exactly like you. People also know you by your voice. You are unique. God made you that way. When you imitate another person, you are not yourself. The Lord expects you to be you – not me. In this respect, God wants us to stay the way he made each one of us. We do God a serious disservice when we insist that others praise the Lord the way we do.

We are the Lord's bouquets of praise. Each one of us ought to praise God the way he made us. He is too great to be satisfied with indistinguishable praise from his creation. If he wanted only your kind of praise, he would have created only you – or cloned you. But he wants my kind of praise, too. I do him great harm if I try to copy you and fail to be me. I think we grieve God when we expect others to praise him the way we do. The Spirit will work on this with me if I ask him for his help.

It is not by accident that the 150 Psalms conclude with this one:

Praise the Lord.

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.*

*Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.*

*Praise him with the sounding of the (1) trumpet,
praise him with the (2) harp and (3) lyre,
praise him with (4) tambourine and (5) dancing,
praise him with the (6) strings and (7) flute,
praise him with the clash of (8) cymbals,
praise him with (9) resounding cymbals.*

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord. ◇◇◇