

Sunday Assembly Reflection

WRITTEN BY: Julie Tipps

REFLECTION: Dennis Coleman taught Sunday on our role as the body of Christ to walk out the emancipation we have been given through Christ, specifically related to women's roles within the church. Emancipation or freedom is not just something that we declare and it automatically happens, but it requires ongoing work to carry it out.

He reminded us that Jesus is the great liberator of ALL people. And most would easily agree with Paul's statement in Galatians 3:26-28* that all people, Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female have become one in Christ, but the church at large has not been living in the fullness of that freedom. Dennis mentioned that Lake Highlands Church does have a good history of breaking down racial barriers and traditional gender roles within the church, but he encouraged us to do even more. We need to do a better job of telling the story of our emancipation through Christ - how everyone has a place in God's Kingdom. We need to continually acknowledge and repent when we contribute, even by passivity, to the injustice and oppression of anyone else, and instead celebrate men and women equally in the exercising of their gifts.

My dad loved me, and I loved my dad more than anyone in the world, but when I started pre-law courses in college, he told me there were too many women lawyers already. (He knew because they were in his courtroom). I immediately dropped that major because I trusted he was right. Obviously, he wasn't right, but I let that one comment shape my future even though I think the Holy Spirit gifted me in that area.

So, I loved it when Dennis said our only question about leadership or roles within the church should be, "What is the Holy Spirit doing in the body?" because that's the only thing we can really trust, and that takes gender and race out of it. The body of Christ is here to bless the world, and we all are Christ's body - Jew, Greek, slave, free, male and female. No distinctions. No limits.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS: *Please pick one of the questions below to answer in your small groups; more if you have time. Be sure to pray for each other at the end.*

- How does this sermon support or challenge your current understanding of the role of women in the church?
- How would you explain to someone else that "Jesus is the great liberator, the emancipator of all people?"
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any lies you have believed about your own freedom. Ask Him to give you the truth regarding your freedom from performance for acceptance, freedom from fear, freedom from death, freedom from whatever keeps you from trusting.

Sunday Assembly Reflection is written by Lake Highlands Church members for Lifegroups and individuals to receive more from the spoken Sunday Assembly message through reflection and quick discussion. It is published on the first three Monday's of the month. If you are interested in knowing more about a Lifegroup or have a question about the reflection, please contact Donjalea Crane, donjalea@lakehighlandschurch.org or contact one of our Lifegroup leaders by going to lakehighlandschurch.org/Lifegroup-listings.

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*Galatians 3:26-28 "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."

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