



Love Outside The Lines | Jimmy Rollins | 7.30.2023
Weekly Study

S H A R E

To cap off the final week of our *Book Club* series, we had the pleasure of hearing from Uncle Jimmy Rollins as he preached a message of unity based on his new book, *Love Outside the Lines: Beyond the Boundaries of Race, Difference, and Preference*. As Jimmy charged into difficult conversations revolving around current issues that divide us, he lovingly reminded us that since the fall of man after Adam and Eve, sin is the greatest thing that divides us not only from God, but from each other. But there is hope. Our need for salvation from the very thing that divides us is the greatest thing that unites us all under the love of a perfect God who can't help but forgive, redeem and restore because God himself is love. What would happen if we let go of our preference and prejudice, and let the perfect love of God unite us as he intended?

What was something pleasantly unexpected that happened in your life this week?

What has been your biggest takeaway from the Book Club Series?

G R O W

[Read Proverbs 18:2 \(NASB\), Proverbs 3: 5 \(NASB\)](#)

Uncle Jimmy used several examples including steak, ideal room temperature, and sleeping preferences to demonstrate how easy it is for our preferences to turn into prejudice that inevitably separates us from people who are different from us, and can even lead to division, hate, and violence. After our need for safety is met, we seek things that make us comfortable, which leads to our preference of one thing over another, which turns into our standard or expectation for the future, and that standard (or failed standard) can lead to prejudice against things that are different than our preference. And if left to our own devices, we can take the things God intended for good to divide us from one another. Before you know it, our own selfish desires and preferences have not only cut us off from abiding in Christ and he in us, but they have

hardened our hearts towards things different than us, closed us off from different ways of thinking, and have separated us from living in unity with all of God's people. Jimmy reminds us to ask God to search our heart, expose our preference (or even prejudice) and trust in his will and understanding of creation rather than our own.

In what area of your life, personal preferences, or beliefs did you feel most convicted by Jimmy's message?

Is there a preference in your life that has either intentionally or unintentionally led to you losing proximity with people who might be different from you?

What is the most difficult part about letting go of your own preference and understanding, and instead, trust in the Lord with all your heart?

M O V E

Read Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV)

When you accept Christ into your life, anything that makes up your identity (whether self-proclaimed, inherited, or forced upon you) automatically falls below your new identity in Christ, allowing all of us to be united as "one in Christ Jesus." When anything other than our salvation through Christ is the dominant characteristic in which we identify ourselves, our preference will always lead to prejudice, which will lead to hate, division, and violence. But when we step into any situation identifying as followers of Christ foremost, we have access to the fruits of the Spirit which guide our life in a way that leads to righteousness and creates opportunities for others to experience the love of Christ through us.

Are there parts of your identity that can occasionally overshadow your identity in Christ?

How can you invite the Holy Spirit to reveal your preferences/prejudices this week and empower you to seek proximity/unity with something or someone that you're currently separated from?

Read Acts 2:1-6 (NIV)

What sticks out to you most in Acts 2:1-6?

How can you partner with the Holy Spirit this week and create a space where people from all walks of life can feel included, seen, heard, valued, and loved?

P R A Y

God, this week we thank you that the greatest thing that unites us all is our need for you and your love for us. Please forgive us for allowing our preferences to turn to prejudice against one another, however big or small, however intentional or unintentional. Please expose the areas of our lives that the enemy uses to divide us from each other and separate us from you. Soften our hearts and fill us with the fruits of the spirit as we go out this week with a desire to see your will done, not our own.

Ignore Notes (will be deleted in final draft)

Timestamps

- 13:40-15:20
- 20:09-20:40
- 23:42-24:27
- 25:09-26:28

Verses

- Galatians 3:26-29
- Romans 5:12
- Psalms 133 how good it is that brothers dwell in unity

- Genesis 11:5-9
- Mark 12:30-31
- There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, ...
- Acts 2:1-4
- Philipians 2:1-11

Notes

- If sin separated us from God it should be no surprise that sin separates us from each other.
- The antidote to division is unity
- Unity around the wrong thing, will divide me around the right thing
- Its impossible for us to give away something that we truly haven't received
- Pointes
 - Love Intentionally
 - God's love is at its best when people are at their worst
 - God is love, he doesn't decide to love.
 - Gods love has to forgive, reconcile, redeem.
 - Live purposefully
 - Its mind blowing that we can draw lines over steak, or coke over pepsi
 - What is something ridiculous that you may have drawn a line over?
 - Listen intently
 - You don't have to agree with someone to show empathy to them, you just have to listen
 - What if we listened to understand instead of listening to respond
 - What if we could just listen to people who may be different than us?
- Comfort, preference, standard, then you lose proximity with anyone who likes things even slightly different and now we start stereotyping other people who are different from us because we have chosen to cut ourselves off from anything that doesn't share our preference. It's okay to have preference, but we have to be careful because our preference can quickly turn into prejudice.