

ACROSS

OUR DIFFERENCES

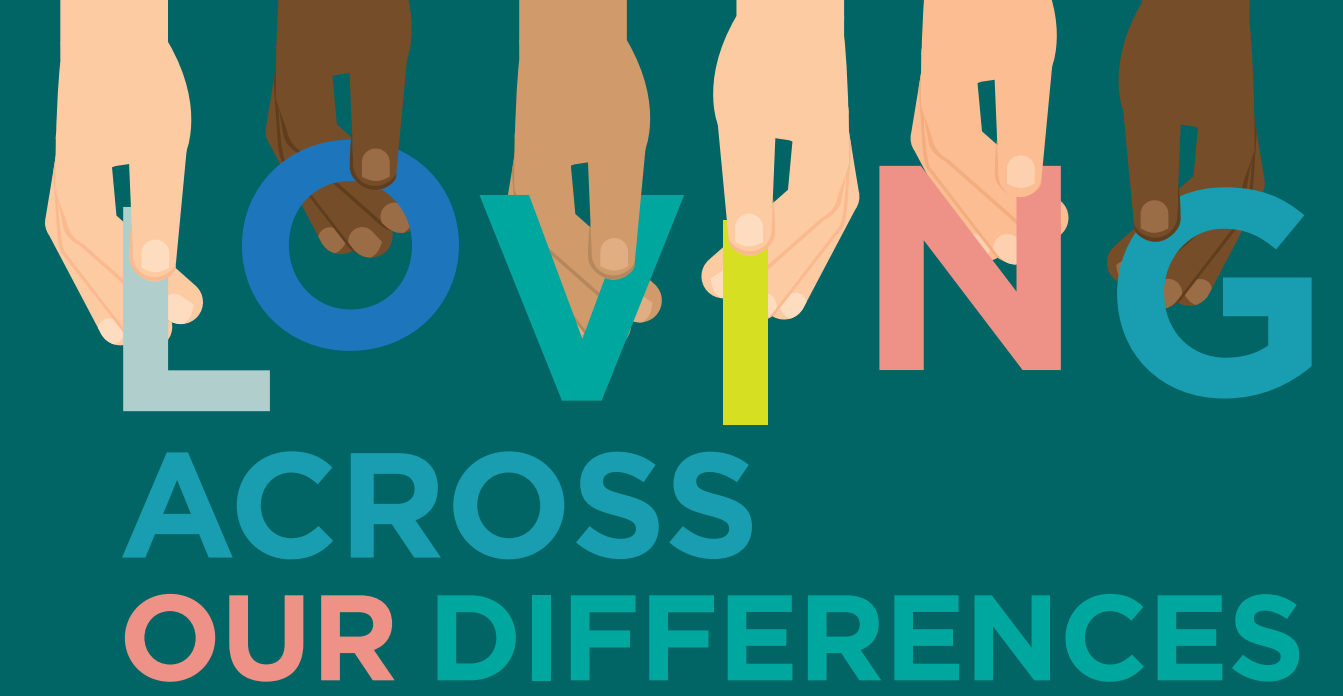
What Do We Do About Diversity In The Vineyard?



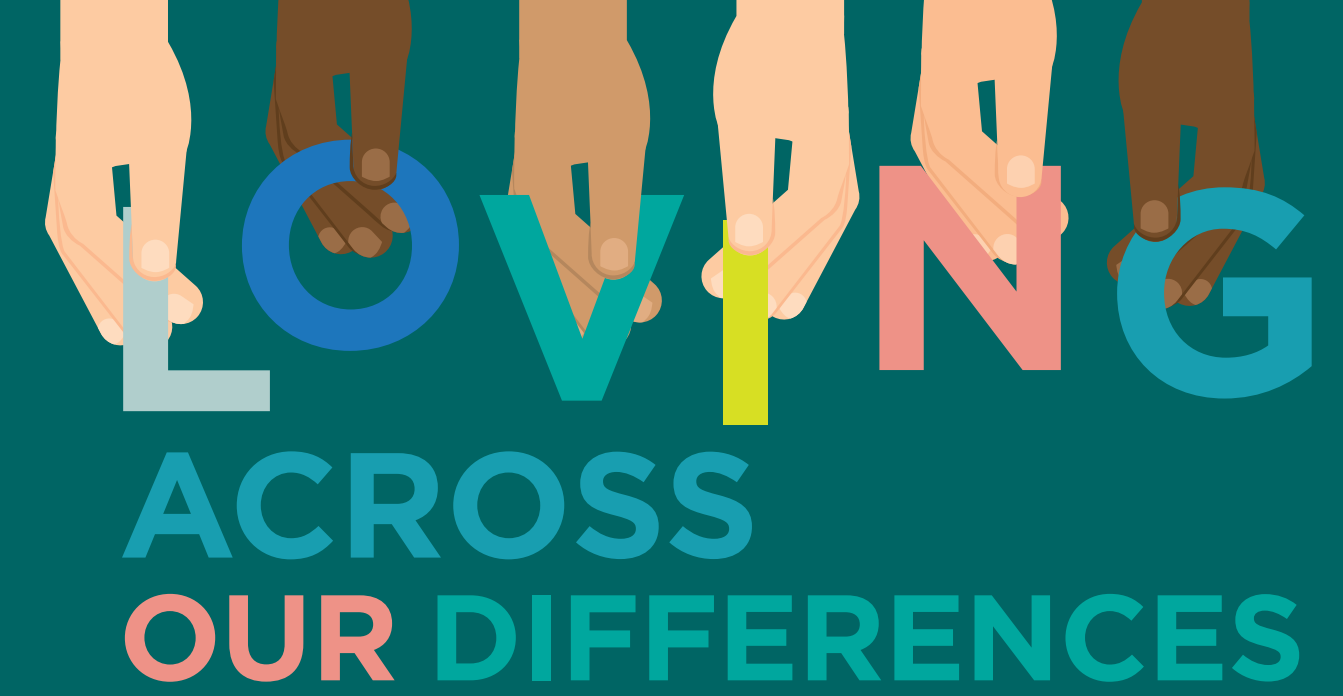
**We're slowly becoming a movement that
values diversity!**



Diversity is a little hard to place in the EDLD progression.



What do we do with diversity in the
Vineyard?



The early church had diversity issues, too.

¹ In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer[a] named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment.

² He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God. ³ One afternoon about three o'clock, he had a vision in which he saw an angel of God coming toward him. "Cornelius!" the angel said.

Acts 10:1-16



⁴ Cornelius stared at him in terror. “What is it, sir?” he asked the angel. And the angel replied, “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have been received by God as an offering! ⁵ Now send some men to Joppa, and summon a man named Simon Peter. ⁶ He is staying with Simon, a tanner who lives near the seashore.”

Acts 10:1-16



⁷ As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier, one of his personal attendants. ⁸ He told them what had happened and sent them off to Joppa.

Acts 10:1-16



⁹ The next day as Cornelius's messengers were nearing the town, Peter went up on the flat roof to pray. It was about noon, ¹⁰ and he was hungry. But while a meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

Acts 10:1-16



¹¹ He saw the sky open, and something like a large sheet was let down by its four corners. ¹² In the sheet were all sorts of animals, reptiles, and birds. ¹³ Then a voice said to him, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat them.”

Acts 10:1-16



¹⁴ “No, Lord,” Peter declared. “I have never eaten anything that our Jewish laws have declared impure and unclean.

Acts 10:1-16



¹⁵ But the voice spoke again: “Do not call something unclean if God has made it clean.”

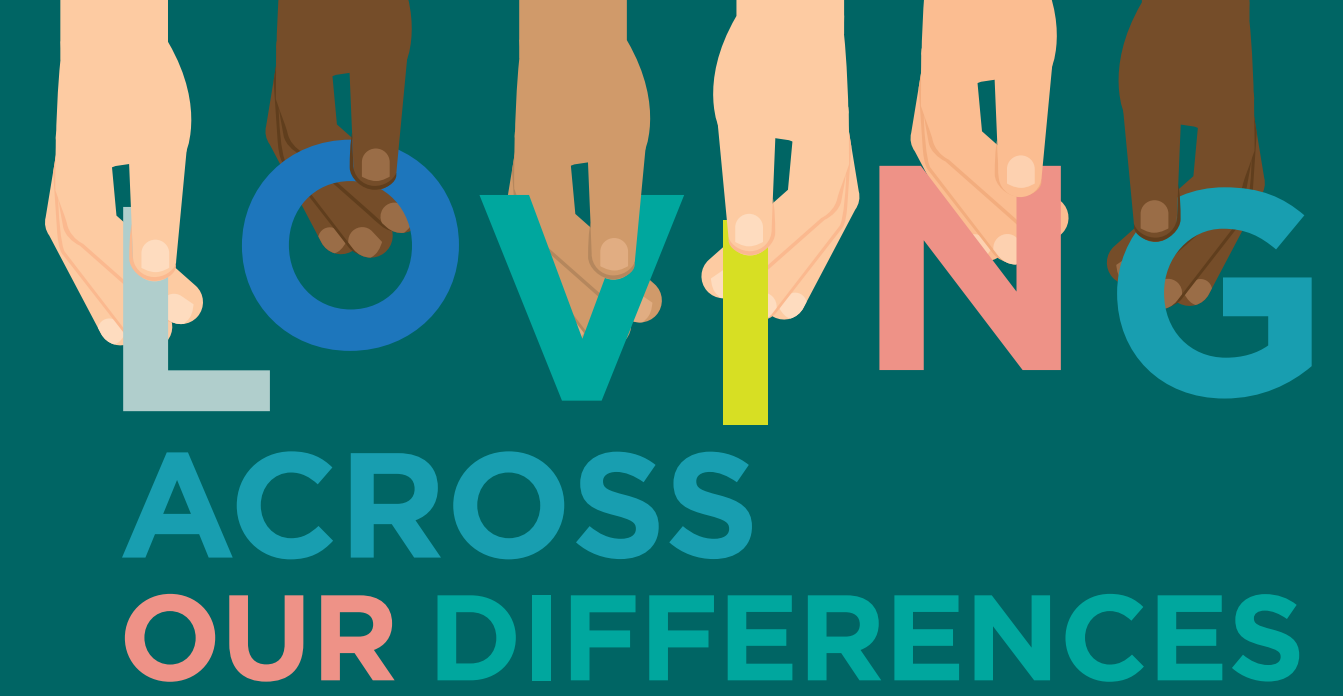
Acts 10:1-16



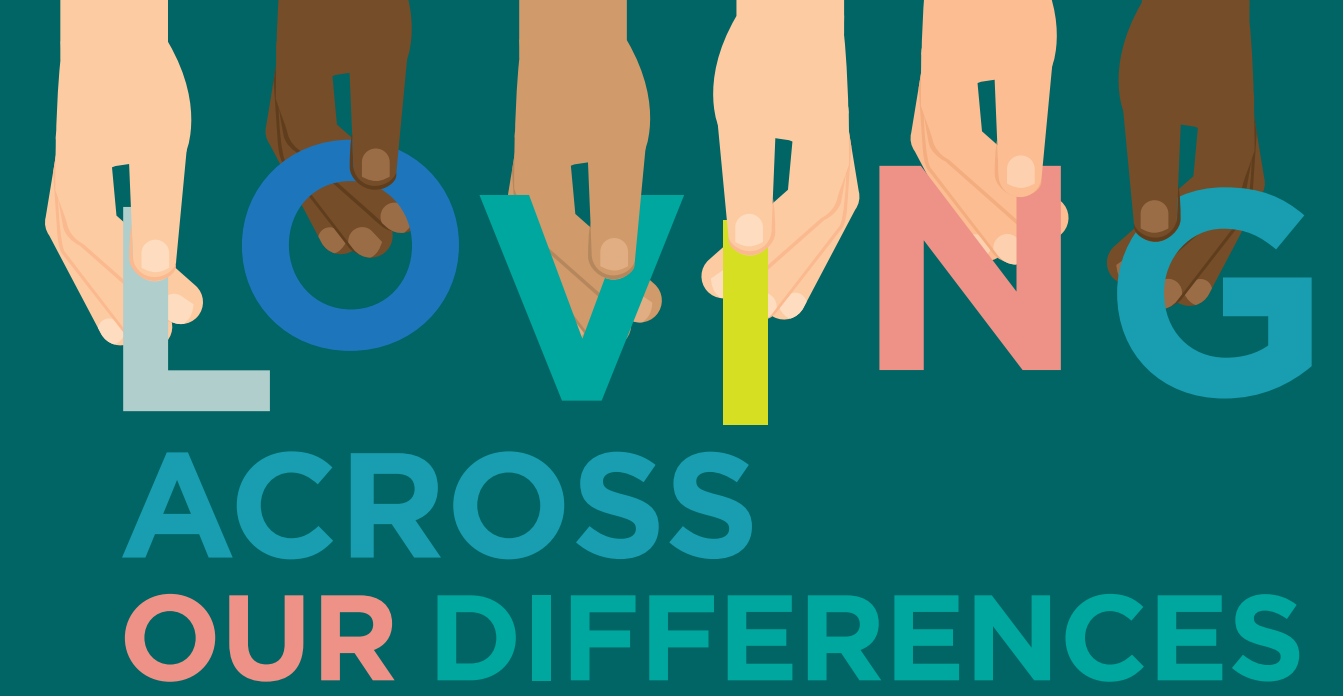
*¹⁶ The same vision was repeated three times.
Then the sheet was suddenly pulled up to heaven.*

Acts 10:1-16





What was their problem?



What did Peter learn from this experience?

28 “You know it is against our laws for a Jewish man to enter a Gentile home like this or to associate with you. But God has shown me that I should no longer think of anyone as impure or unclean.

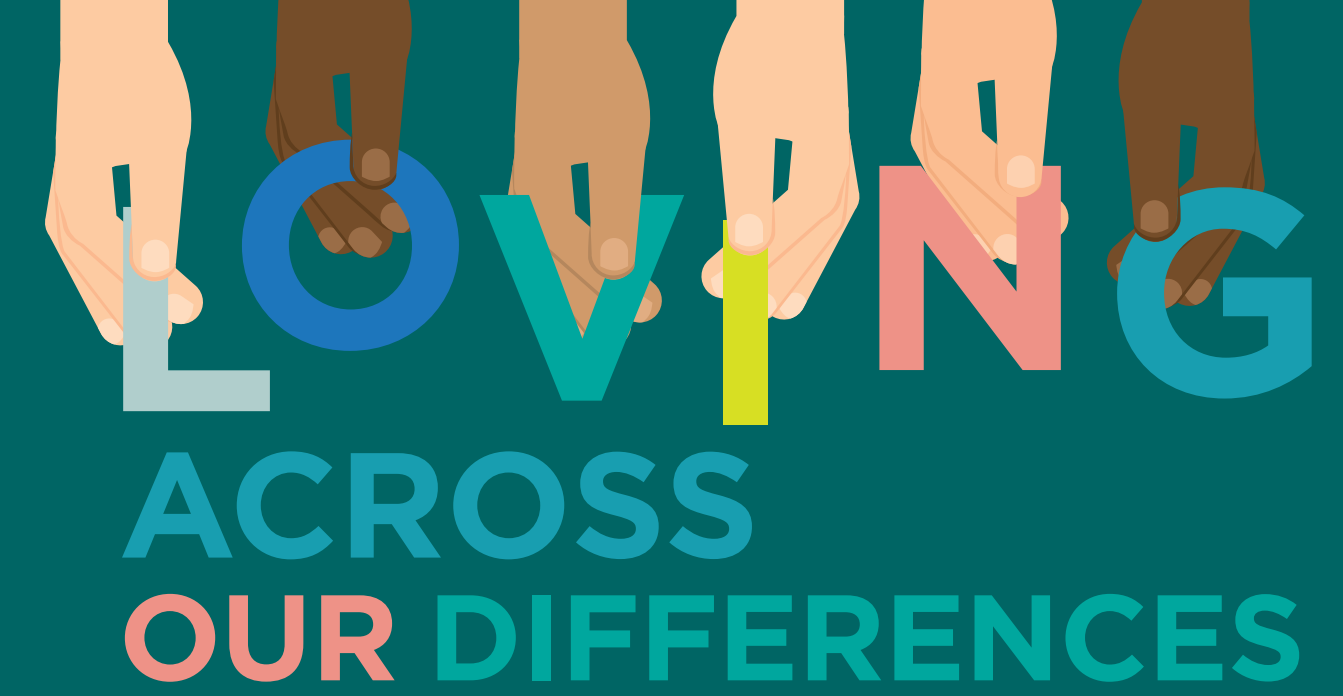
Acts 10:28



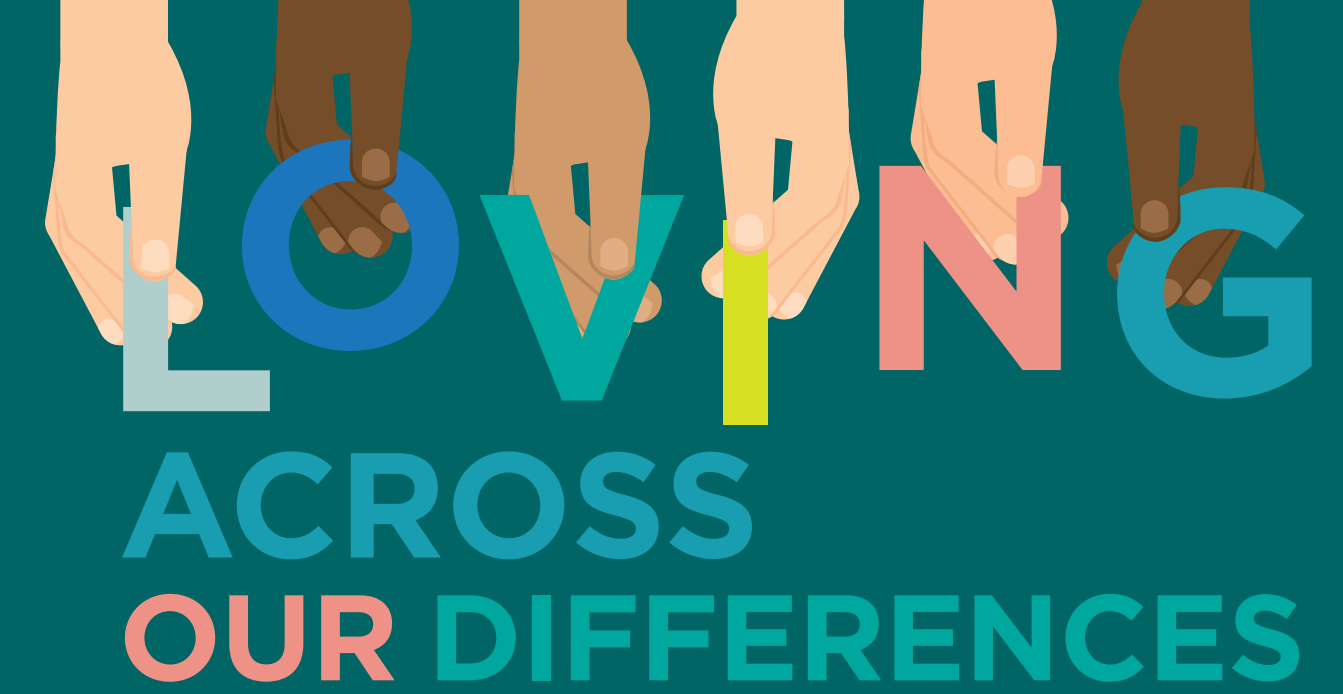
*34 ... “I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism.
35 In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do
what is right. 36 This is the message of Good News for
the people of Israel—that there is peace with God
through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*

Acts 10:34-36





God gives us our own rooftop experiences.



Why is Diversity important in the
life of the local church?



How do we create a culture of diversity
in our local churches?



How do we create a culture of diversity
in our local churches?

- *Let God change you!*

*⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together;
the leopard will lie down with the baby goat.*

Isaiah 11:6-9



*The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion,
and a little child will lead them all.*

Isaiah 11:6-9



7 The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow.

Isaiah 11:6-9



*⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra.
Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly
snakes without harm.*

Isaiah 11:6-9



*Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,
for as the waters fill the sea, **so the earth will be filled
with people who know the Lord.***

Isaiah 11:6-9





How do we create a culture of diversity
in our local churches?

- *Let God change you!*



How do we create a culture of diversity in our local churches?

- *Let God change you!*
- *Be welcoming & Not just open*



How do we create a culture of diversity in our local churches?

- *Let God change you!*
- *Be welcoming & Not just open*
- *Don't just make exceptions*