

# WAYS

## DEVOTIONAL

### **What are the Ways?**

From reflecting on Scripture and on lives lived with God, FPCM's Staff and Session have distilled 25 Ways that God calls us to live our faith in community and in devotion to Him.

These Ways are meant to help us create an "atmosphere thick with love," and a culture where God's character is evident in all we do. In short, they show who we aim to be.

# How do I Devote?

## 1. Pick your Best Time and Space

Give God your best time, not your leftovers. Look for a time in your day when you are alert and uninterrupted. It can be helpful to find a location which feels prayerful to you.

## 2. Be Attentive to Yourself

Before you Devote, be attentive to your own heart and mind. Are you feeling preoccupied... disappointed... resentful? Your personal state will impact your prayer life. Make it known to God.

## 3. Be Attentive to God

This is your time with God. It is personal and relational. Jesus is listening and the Spirit is present with you. Be with God in this time. Even in silence you can know and enjoy His presence.

## 4. Read. Think. Pray.

Devoting yourself to God is simple. **Read** scripture, **Think** about what it means and means to you, and **Pray** about it. This can be a time to engage your heart and mind toward God's calling. Don't rush it. Savor your time in the word and in prayer with God.

## 5. Live it Out

Now do something about it.

# Rest and Reflect

Each Sunday is an opportunity to Rest with God and Reflect on His presence and power in the previous week and how you will respond in the next.

Sabbath can be a powerful force in your life. Take a break and recline into God's grace. Let work take a back seat to joy and peace. Remember all that God has done for you this week. *God* is in control.



# KEEP THE UNITY, SAVOR DIVERSITY

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Sunday

Thank God that, like parts of the human body, we're not all the same.

Be open to learning from others, regardless of their age, background, experience, or tenure with our church. We make better decisions and grow as people when we consider multiple perspectives. Listen with curiosity to others and consider how to use their ideas.

Remember to Rest and Reflect on God's goodness and how you can *Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity* this week.





MAKE EVERY EFFORT  
TO KEEP THE UNITY OF  
THE SPIRIT THROUGH  
**THE BOND**  
**OF PEACE.**  
EPHESIANS 4:3

Monday

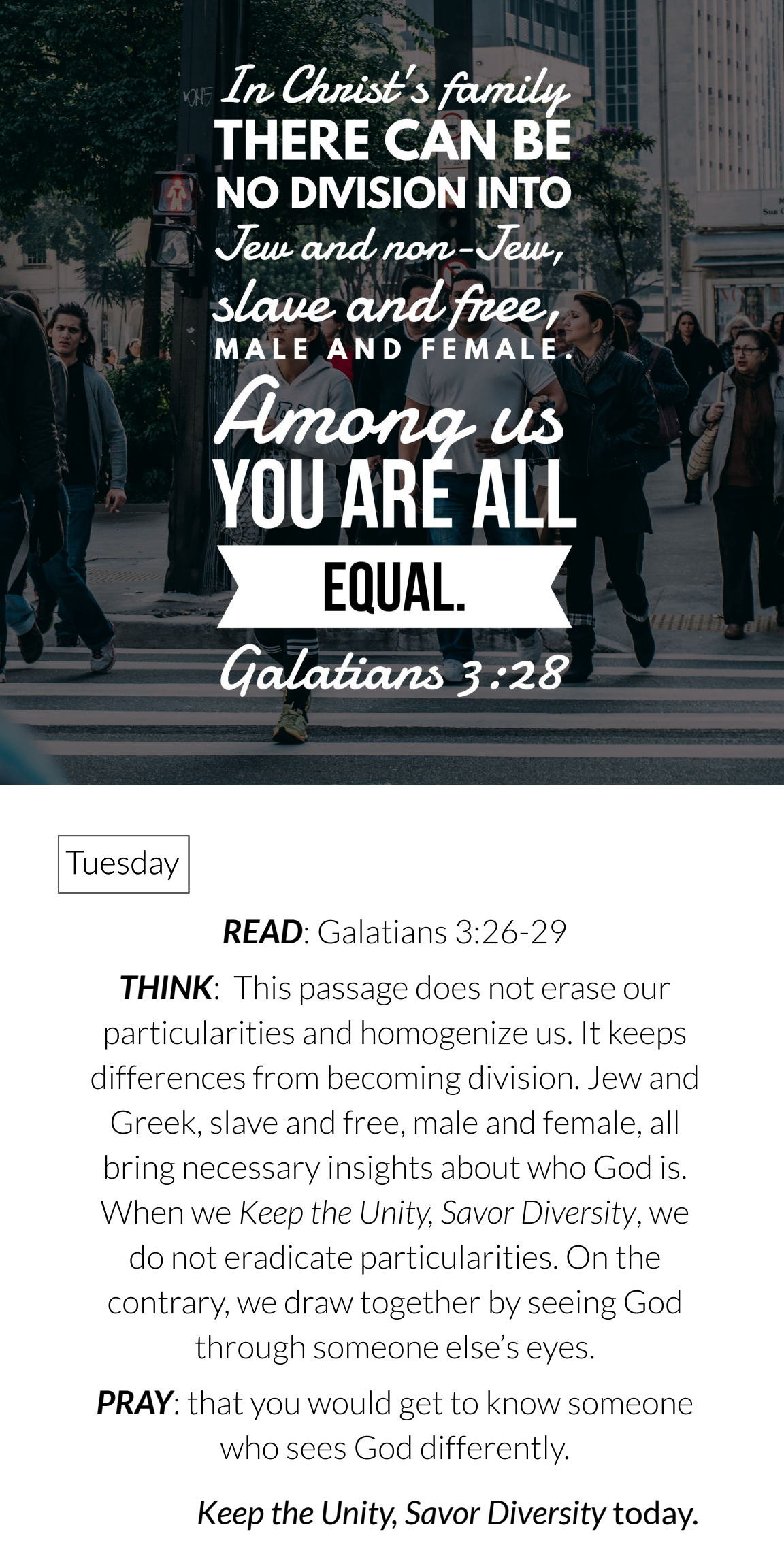
**READ:** Ephesians 4:1-6

**THINK:** What unites us is stronger than what separates us. Gender, race, age, orientation, and theological understandings are all formative powers in our lives, but they do not hold a candle to the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit acts to *Keep the Unity*, what could we possibly allow to divide us?

**PRAY:** that the Spirit would unite the diverse members of the Church into one body.

*Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity today.*





*In Christ's family*  
**THERE CAN BE  
NO DIVISION INTO**  
*Jew and non-Jew,  
slave and free,*  
**MALE AND FEMALE.**

*Among us*  
**YOU ARE ALL**  
**EQUAL.**

*Galatians 3:28*

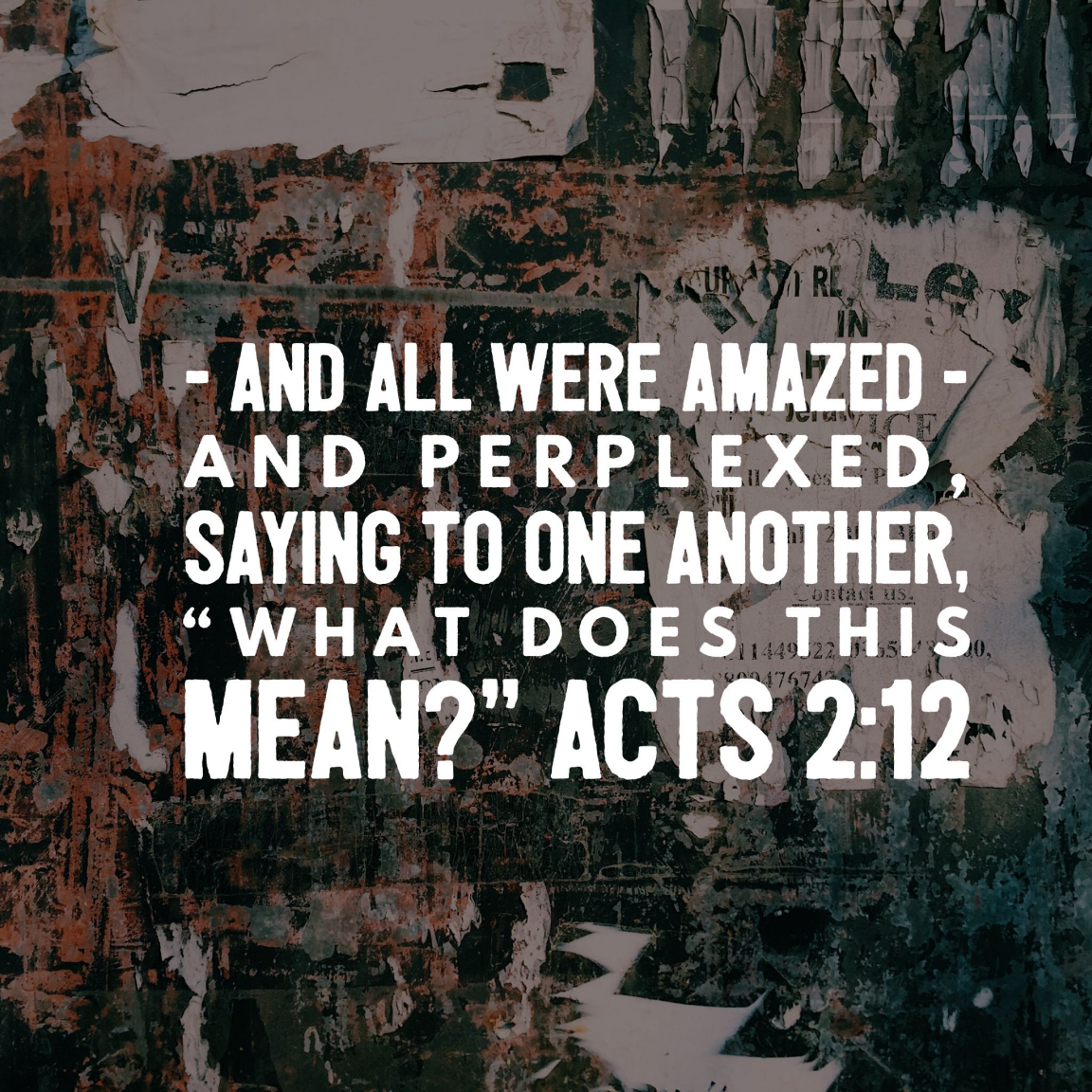
Tuesday

**READ:** Galatians 3:26-29

**THINK:** This passage does not erase our particularities and homogenize us. It keeps differences from becoming division. Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, all bring necessary insights about who God is. When we *Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity*, we do not eradicate particularities. On the contrary, we draw together by seeing God through someone else's eyes.

**PRAY:** that you would get to know someone who sees God differently.

*Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity today.*



**- AND ALL WERE AMAZED -  
AND PERPLEXED,  
SAYING TO ONE ANOTHER,  
“WHAT DOES THIS  
MEAN?” ACTS 2:12**

Wednesday

**READ:** Acts 2:5-12

**THINK:** When the Spirit comes, the wonders of God are spoken to diverse persons in their own language. The Spirit doesn't just gather the like minded of similar racial or socioeconomic backgrounds. As on Pentecost, the Spirit opens the doors of the church and invites in people of all walks of life. When we *Savor Diversity*, we savor the Spirit's active presence in the world.

**PRAY:** to see the Spirit move in power here as the Spirit did in Acts.

*Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity today.*





**AFTER THIS I LOOKED,**

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**AND THERE WAS**

A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT,

**FROM EVERY NATION,**

FROM ALL TRIBES AND PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES,

**STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE**

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**AND BEFORE THE LAMB,**

**ROBED IN WHITE,**

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WITH PALM BRANCHES IN THEIR HANDS.

**REVELATION 7:9**

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Thursday

**READ:** Revelation 7:9-12


**THINK:** Isn't this multilingual chorus praising God a beautiful image? It is our hope that every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord and be gathered together with Him. No distrust, no hatred, no fear, but only the people of God, in all their diversity, worshipping their Maker together. In a day to come, Christ will return and we will Savor Diversity at the foot of the throne. Don't wait. Savor Diversity today.

**PRAY:** that Jesus would fill you with hope for the coming kingdom.

*Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity today.*



ABOVE ALL,  
PUT ON LOVE,  
WHICH IS  
THE PERFECT  
BOND  
& UNITY.  
COLOSSIANS  
3:14



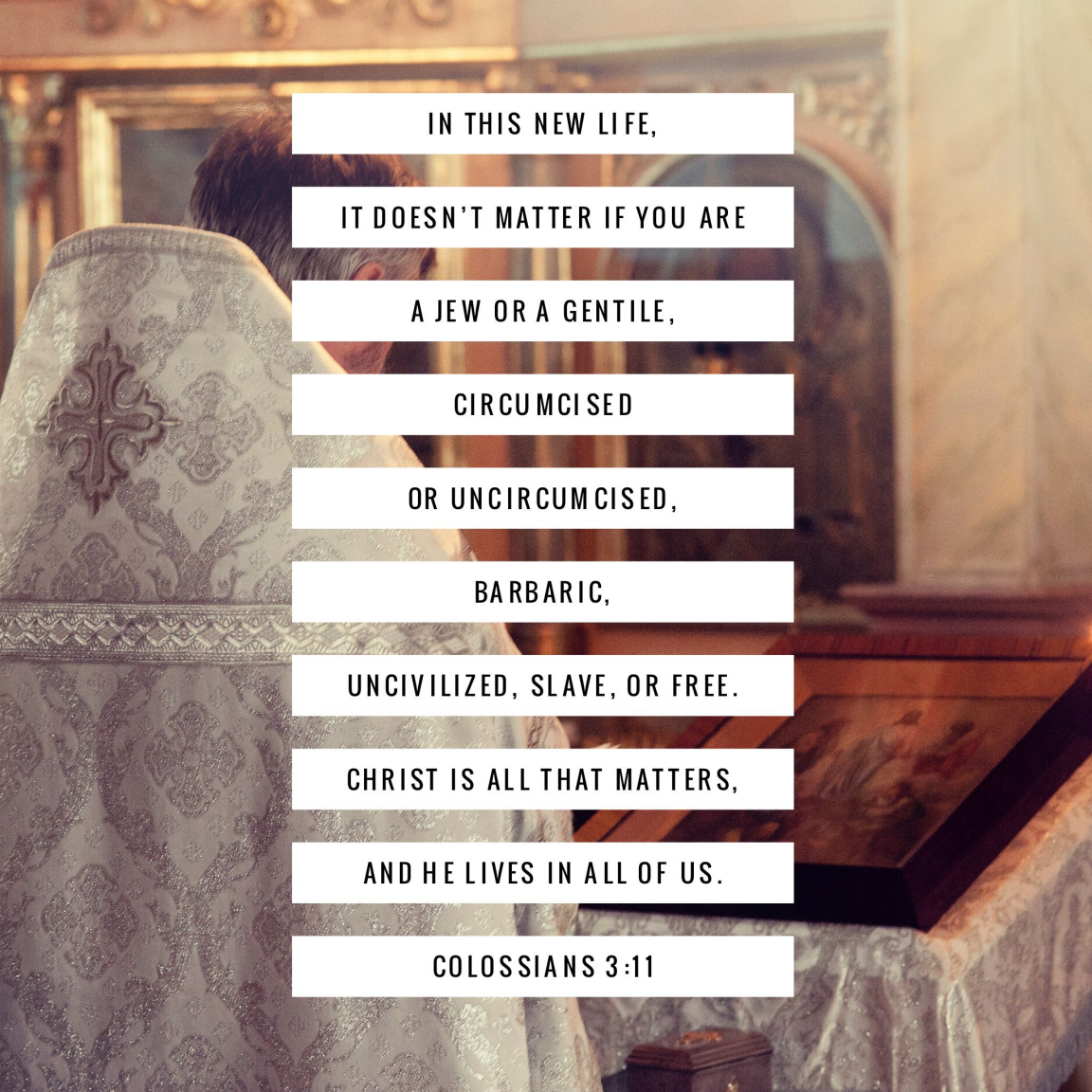
Friday

**READ:** Colossians 3:12-17

**THINK:** It would be naive to think that we can *Keep the Unity* and *Savor Diversity* unless we also *Forgive... Again*. Our world is broken, we are broken, and people can take the gift of diversity and perceive it as a threat to their way of life. This *will* happen. We can only grow into a church which *Keeps the Unity* and *Savors Diversity* by taking the time to continually *Forgive... Again*.

**PRAY:** the Spirit continually drives us back to forgiveness.

*Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity* today.



IN THIS NEW LIFE,

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU ARE

A JEW OR A GENTILE,

CIRCUMCISED

OR UNCIRCUMCISED,

BARBARIC,

UNCIVILIZED, SLAVE, OR FREE.

CHRIST IS ALL THAT MATTERS,

AND HE LIVES IN ALL OF US.

COLOSSIANS 3:11

Saturday

**READ:** Colossians 3:5-11

**THINK:** In each member of the Church, we see Christ. When we use diversity to cause dissension, we set Christ against Himself. Brother and sisters this cannot be. We are one body, one family, being united in and by God, but that work takes time. Do not see enemies in diversity, but *Keep the Unity* by seeing Christ as all and in all.

**PRAY:** the Spirit would convict you of where you have set Jesus against Himself.

*Keep the Unity, Savor Diversity* today.