

“Not Like Me: Seeing Past Stereotypes”

By Eric Bryant

Mosaic (Peppermint-Filled Pinatas series)

Seeing Past Stereotypes Series Promo or  
Show Footage of me breakdancing in college

“Wasn’t that amazing?! Something bothering me. Have you noticed we rarely have white guys dancing? If we do its ballroom style? One guy today but never even seen one bald white guy. Continuing our series and now focusing on “Seeing Past Stereotypes.” One stereotype that must be overcome is that white men cannot dance. Agape Posse dancing. As you can see white guys can dance (perhaps not as well). White men can jump (just not as high). Showed Caleb the video “Is that you?” Yes “I can’t believe you had hair!”

Dinner with friends: sharing injustices (rubbing my head for luck, mistaking me for a cholo, people offering to pray for a full recovery) “I don’t even think of you as bald.”  
Back hair comb over.

Ever been a victim of a stereotype? Due to your appearance (age, gender, ethnicity, personality)? For some of us, isn’t a laughing matter. Some of us faced genuine hardship as a result of stereotypes.

All prone towards prejudice. Where or how raised. Experiences. Circumstances. Hard-wired in our brains.

Shouldn’t be that way. 2 Cor. 5:16 “We should see beyond a person’s status or appearance and see the person.”

Arabs on a Plane. 1 year prior. Trip to Syria and Egypt (pics)

How can we see past stereotypes?

World around us talks of tolerance. In education, politics, and even business “diversity” is a hot topic. Unprecedented opportunity but still way more room to grow. Medici Effect (diversity leads towards innovation), “human capital,” People are beginning to discover that we miss out when we isolate ourselves from others. Tamales with Vasquez family. People talking about diversity but still not really seeing it.

Scriptures are a guide. Political correctness and Tolerance are a step in the right direction, but it is barely a baby step at that. Better than the alternative (hated, persecuted, killed). Anyone wake up this morning longing to be tolerated? Break through tolerance and embrace others. When we are tired of tolerating others, we should try loving them. P.C. is a band aid which hardly covers deeper wounds that exist.

Church should be leading the way! Instead we have a history of racism and colonialism.

God created and values uniqueness. He created us just as we are. We can trust Him.

John 3:16. the whole world.

Beginning, middle, and end of Scriptures (Gen. 12:3, Psalm 67, and Rev 5:9, 7:9, 14:6)  
“glimpse of heaven”

Easier in LA since we've been dealing with this longer than most communities who are just now experiencing interaction with people from different backgrounds. Haven't arrived. Ethnic tensions and prejudice still evident.

Mosaic an anomaly. 80 plus nationalities, diverse in our community, volunteer staff, paid staff, and leadership. Most churches homogenous. Most communities are homogenous. Changing quickly.

How should we respond? With love, kindness, service – friendship. Stereotypes exist because friendships do not. Erwin in a suburban church (“Can't we all just get along?” Hutus and Tutsis, Irish Protestants and Catholics, etc., Marry our kids.)  
Neighbors=Friends?

Treat others as we would want to be treated. color blindness not enough, two Danas, diversity within one person, Kids are prejudiced towards the opposite gender (Dora > Diego, girl music) Caleb at American Girl Place

Fellowship Phil 1:5

1<sup>st</sup> time in New Zealand. Expected to see King Kong, Superman, or at least some hobbits. Fond of hobbits, several in my family: Mom (hairy feet) and kids (2 beautiful plus a 3<sup>rd</sup> one, 10<sup>th</sup> %)

Fellowship does not equal spending time with people just like us.

[Scene from Lord of the Rings]

Phil. 1:5 partnership with a cause

Fellowship isn't what we do for each other. Fellowship is what do together for the world. Cause creates community (Shaq and Kobe, impersonations)

Mt. 4:19

Sacrifice for sake of others (music, message style, small groups, etc. Srs.)

Spiritual reconciliation > racial reconciliation. Cannot help but become diverse

Dr. Gerardo Marti, a professor of Sociology at Davidson University recently published [A Mosaic of Believers: Diversity and Innovation in a Multiethnic Church](#) through Indiana University Publishing. When asked how to create a diverse community, he said, “Mosaic did not become diverse by emphasizing diversity, but by providing multiple points of commonality such as passions, artistry, and mission. These points of commonality become arenas for multiethnic companionship, cooperation, and camaraderie.”

2 Cor 5:14-21 Jesus loves all. Reconcile = snapping fingers, Reconcilers

Jews for Jesus, Muslims who now follow Jesus, Buddhists who now follow Jesus, Atheists, New Age, and even Christians who now follow Jesus

On my blog I asked for input for this message, and I received one comment in particular from a woman in South Africa. Isn't it amazing how small our world is? Do you remember life before everyone had their own website and blog or even email. Used to mail letters to Debbie. Call her long distance.

“in south africa we have a hugely diverse nation,with a difficult past because of fear. peopled feared that which was different. but i think the truth and reconcilliation commission did something amazing, it gave people a platform to share their stories, to be heard...to be valued. it’s still one of the greatest struggles here, to accept people who are different. yet there is nothing more beautiful when you hear our national anthem sung in 3 languages and reflected by amazing colourful people.” Left by maxie on June 7th, 2007

South Africa in 60’s – 1860’s. Uncle Tom’s Cabin changed perspective.

Reconcilers