



EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Diversity Statement

As a school, we joyfully seek and embrace economic, social, and racial diversity. We recognize all persons are uniquely created by God (Psalm 139) and are given specific gifts and abilities which foster a well-rounded learning environment.

Biblical Foundations of Diversity

Creation

God has directly created humans in His image. Because of this, all people possess inherent and equal dignity. God's intentional, created diversity shows his character. All humans are equal because they originate in the first humans who were created by God.

Imago Dei

Imago Dei refers to the biblical doctrine that all people, regardless of race, gender, varying degrees of physical ability, or socioeconomic class are created in the image of God. Therefore, a biblical understanding of diversity celebrates the value of all human beings as image-bearers with God-given worth and dignity.

The Fall

Sin had ruinous consequences for humankind distorting our view of the Imago Dei, introducing conflict, disunity, injustice, racism, oppression, and a breakdown of community. Scripture gives abundant evidence that each person is born with a sin nature, and sin not only affects us personally but all of creation. We must recognize that sin tempts individuals and groups to exalt themselves over others.

Redemption and Reconciliation

Sin separates all people from God and leaves all equally in need of redemption. God offers redemption as a gift to all who repent of their sins and believe in Christ and his work on the cross. Because Christ's work of redemption was one of sacrifice and suffering, he calls believers to labor in a broken world with joy, humility, and perseverance. Believers, now being unified in one body by means of the Holy Spirit, pursue this calling together.

Biblical Love

Biblical love is the defining mark of all true followers of Christ. As followers of Christ we must bear one another's burdens while recognizing and struggling against the effects of sin in our own lives. Christ also calls believers to love our neighbors as ourselves, love our enemies, help those in need, and treat others as we would like to be treated. As all people are image bearers of God, no group or individual, even those who completely disagree with our beliefs, should ever be hated, belittled, or experience a hostile environment.

Renewed Creation

Scripture teaches that one day, Christ will renew his creation and eliminate all the effects of sin. The renewed community of believers from every nation, tribe, people, and language will celebrate its diversity recognizing its unity in Christ.

We believe that unity is not uniformity, and based on the diversity that we witness in the body of Christ, we believe that greater diversity at ECS enhances the educational experience by providing a better context for demonstrating the unifying power of the Gospel. It also better equips our students for life in the increasingly global and diverse workplace that awaits them.

**Adopted from the Bible, Cedarville University and First Christian Academy*