

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #116 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 8/25/20)

“Beauty in Variety”

Is it my imagination, or is the variety of colors of these kittens (see my attached picture) at least part of what makes them so cute? Isn't it the variety of colors in these baby pigs (see my attached picture of from many years ago) at least part of what makes them so precious? Isn't it the variety of colors in fall leaves that makes for such picturesque pictures? Isn't it the variety of colors that makes a rainbow so breathtakingly beautiful? Isn't it the varying colors of the sky in a sunrise or sunset that stuns us with its sensational scenes? Isn't it in playing both the black and white notes on a piano that makes such magnificent music?

If all of this is true, then perhaps the same applies to humans... The variety of colors of people's skin and hair and eyes adds to the incredible beauty of all humanity—humanity that God created in his image. We would do well to remember what God said:

“...the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height... The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’ (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV)

We should not judge people by their outward appearance; we need to follow God's example and look at the heart. While we should not judge people according to the color of their skin or hair or eyes, we should appreciate the variety with which God made us—because it's in the varying colors of humanity that we discover the true beauty of creation—and that's not my imagination!

PRAYER:

Loving God and Father of us all, thank you for creating us in your image and with such variety and beauty! Forgive me for any time I have judged or condemned others for the variety you gave them—because in doing so, I am judging and condemning you who created them. Help me to appreciate the beauty of all humanity—inside and out! Amen.

LIVE IT!

The next time you see someone who looks different from you, thank God for the person and how God purposely made us different. If possible, get to know the person—that you both may see God in each other.

