



# GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

## BREAKING THE ICE

What did you do for the 4th of July?

When we were in high school, we were often categorized into groups. You may have been a “jock” because you played sports, the band guy or girl, or maybe you were on the math team. What was the “group” you fell into when you were in high school?

## MAIN CONTENT

Jason Miller was our guest speaker Sunday, and he shared about how we often put people into categories. Our perspective of people has really come from our own labels or tribal lines. In high school, you would put people into a category, or maybe judge people, based off of your perspective from your tribe. As a jock, you may look at someone on the math team and judge them based on how they related as a jock.

Today, your perspective of people is probably different than the person beside you. The way we label heroes and villains is often different person to person. Jason talked about how each major news outlet told a different version of the same story. It was all about perspective.



1. What has helped develop your perspective of others?

Saul (who would later be known as Paul) believed that followers of Jesus were practicing a false religion. He didn't understand how they could love and worship Jesus and still be Godly people. He thought they had to follow a certain set of rules and have a certain understanding of the Bible.

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We read in Acts 8:3

But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

Saul was trying to kill followers of Jesus Christ because of his perspective of them.

2. How has your perspective of a different group of people stopped you from connecting with that group?
3. How has culture impacted how we see groups of people that are “different” than us? John knew who Jesus was, and he continued to tell people.

Someone read Acts 9:1-9. Saul has this encounter with Jesus. Jesus begins to blow up his perspective. He begins to change how he sees people and how he sees the world. Really, the way God sees people. The way God sees you and me goes all the way back to Genesis.

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground.”

So God created human beings in his own image.  
In the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

There is this beautiful picture that God paints on His perspective of you and me. There is this beautiful picture of how God sees man, and it’s that He sees man as created in His image. There is value in every person and every gender.

When we see people as the image of God, we no longer get angry at the “stupid driver,” but we realized that the person who cut us off is the image of God. It changes how we see others.

4. How does seeing others as created in the image of God change how we treat people?
5. What does it look like to live out this perspective?

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Jason said that “We need to be careful how we see the world, because it might cause us to break the world.” This new perspective of people causes us to treat others as the image of God. It changes everything we have been taught.

Colossians 3:9-11

Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

Paul writes that all that matters is Jesus and Jesus in us. Our categories are shaken. Jason also reminded us that when we put others in categories and see them wrongly, we can also do that do ourselves.

6. How does knowing everyone was created in God's image change your perspective of yourself.
7. What are some daily ways to walkout this view of others and yourself?

We are reminded that our new label or category is child of God.

Galatians 3:26-28:

For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, we thank You that You made us in Your image. Help us see others as well as ourselves as created in Your image. Give us a new and fresh perspective. We give our categories and labels to You and want to love others as you would. In Jesus' Name, amen.

## ACTION STEP

Over the next week, as a group, pick out a project for Do Good Summer to go and serve. Pick a project that would be with a people group that wouldn't be normal for you to serve. You can serve the homeless, refugees, individuals with special needs, or kids in the foster care system. Find something at [crosspoint.tv/dogoodsummer](http://crosspoint.tv/dogoodsummer) that would push you to connect with someone you would consider "different."

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