

April 19, 2017

Holy Week was a fabulous experience this year. Hands down, my favorite part was being involved in so many worship services held by different churches in the area. It was the clearest indication that we are all one as the body of Christ in the world. I believe competition between congregations misses the point of the great commission (see the gospel of Matthew 28:19-20). I'm hard pressed to find one scripture that says something like, "Go forth and convince members of other congregations to transfer their membership to yours." No, not so much. Instead we are called to spread the good news of grace and salvation to *all* people. Each person in our community experiences life and asks questions a little (or a lot!) differently than another one. Different congregations are like that as well; each has a vision, teachings, and a mix of gifts that speak most clearly to some and not others. We church people would do well to remember that. No one congregation can be everything to all people. Nothing will discourage a church family more than trying to be something it's not. Let us instead stretch toward God and be what we are called to be.