

Rosslyn's Philosophy of Diversity (Working Draft)

Philosophy of Diversity at Rosslyn Academy is rooted in our:

- The biblical belief that “all people are created in the Image of God” and therefore equal in dignity and value before God and each other. (Gen. 1:27)
- The biblical belief that “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 3:28)
- The vision we see in Scripture of God’s perfect Kingdom in which people of every nation, tribe, people and language are united in worship before God (Rev. 7:9)
- The biblical belief that all cultures reflect to some extent the “general revelation of God” (Rom. 1:20)
 - but that all cultures and values also reflect the fallen state of humanity (Rom. 5:12-21)
 - And, therefore, must be understood and evaluated through the lens of both special and general revelation. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

It is upon this foundation that we believe that:

- Our fundamental identity is not to be found primarily in our race, ethnicity, nationality, sex, or any other facet of our identity, but instead is rooted in our common status as God’s special creation. Rooted in this common identity, we believe that:
 - Diversity is a beautiful gift of God, and an important means through which we can grow further in relationship with God and with each other.
 - Healthy interaction across differences means confronting our natural and sinful inclination to elevate or discriminate based on differences.
 - This includes confronting and actively seeking to make right, historical, corporate and endemic discrimination.
 - It also includes seeking and granting forgiveness for individual and corporate sins related to discrimination.
 - Healthy diversity is hard work as it means listening, interacting, and learning across lines of ethnicity, sex, language, race, and belief.
 - All peoples and cultures benefit when there is a healthy and mutually respectful exchange of perspectives and practices as, together, we pursue what is True, Beautiful and Good.
 - It necessitates a reliance on God’s guidance through prayer and a conscious and consistent return to our first (biblical) principles.
 - It also requires us to consistently apply the virtues of intellectual fair-mindedness, curiosity, carefulness, humility, honesty, tenacity and courage to our interactions with others - especially across significant lines of difference.