



# Let Us Be Who We Are



We live in many different cultures and groupings – family, ethnicity, church, nationality, job. We may be part of a prayer group, sports club, or other groups that give us a sense of belonging.

Some of the cultures we live in help us to be who we really are. People accept us and allow us be ourselves. Other times we have to hide who we are.

Migrants in the first generation particularly band together as they are accepted in their group. People are rejected because of race, nationality, colour, sexual orientation, religion and much more. We need to be part of a group, community or culture that allows us be who we are.

One group Jesus engaged with were the lepers. They were outcasts because of a disease which was contagious, in a lifetime of social restriction

or even quarantine. With other lepers they had found their group of peers who accepted them.

They also found that in Jesus. He crossed the cultural boundary to meet them and touch them and they were not afraid of him. They knew him as one who built them up and they each became part of the other's life. Is that the Jesus we know – the one who just offers love and friendship, forgiveness and understanding always?

Our following of Jesus invites us to accept the other person as the other, all created in the love of God, all dear to the heart of Jesus. We are the better in a culture like that.

In meeting Jesus, the lepers and many others like them, would never forget him, and I would say that Jesus would never forget them. He is that type of person. 

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