

# Scriptural Foundations

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The TCDSB Equity and Inclusive Education Policy is deeply rooted in our Catholic tradition and the Sacred Scriptures. The TCDSB firmly believes that God is a loving parent, making all of us not only children of God but also essentially, brothers and sisters to one another:

*Jesus answered, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” Then he pointed to his disciples and said, “Look! Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does what my Father in heaven wants him to do is my brother, my sister and my mother.”*

*Matthew 12: 48–50*

*There shall be one fold, and one shepherd.*

*John 10: 16*

*And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples.*

*John: 13: 34–35*

*In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body.*

*Romans 12: 5*

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Jesus Christ.*

*Galatians 3: 27–28*

**Arising out of Jesus’ teaching as found in the Scriptures, the Catholic Church, through its teachings and traditions continues to strive to uphold its position of inclusion and integration of all its people as a family of God. A number of documents from the Second Vatican Council uphold the Church’s teachings regarding the dignity and self-worth of all people. The clearest statements of this teaching are found in the document *The Church and Racism*, published by the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace in Rome in 1988.**

The following are edited excerpts from that document.

*Since all people possess a rational soul and are created in God's likeness, since they have the same nature and origin, have been redeemed by Christ, and enjoy the same divine calling and destiny, the basic equality of all must receive increasingly greater recognition. True, all people are not alike from the point view of varying physical power and the diversity of intellectual and moral resources. Nevertheless, with respect to the fundamental rights of the person, every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language, or religion is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent.*

*Man's creation by God in His own image confers upon every human person an eminent dignity; it also postulates the fundamental equality of all human beings.*

*According to Biblical Revelation, God created the human being – man and woman in His own image and likeness. This bond between the human person and the Creator, provides the basis of his or her dignity and fundamental inalienable right of which God is the guarantor.*

*Revelation, indeed insists just as much on the unity of the human family: all persons created in God have the same origin. ... As St. Paul told the Athenians: "From one single stock he created the whole human race so that they could occupy the entire earth," and so everyone can say with the poet that they are of God's same "race".*

*The Christian teaching ... has in fact serious moral consequences which can be summarized in three key words: respect for differences, fraternity and solidarity.*