



# One KING One KINGdom

## One KING. One KINGdom.

Nothing is more powerful than seeing people from different cultures & colors stand united in Jesus. IT'S TIME for Christians to SHOW our world what that looks like!

### onlinenotes

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### teachingnotes

\* All Scripture is from CSB (Christian Standard Bible) unless otherwise noted.

**Romans 1:13** Now I don't want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I often planned to come to you (but was prevented until now) in order that I might have a **fruitful ministry among you**, just as I have had among the rest of **the Gentiles**.

- Paul, a Roman citizen, has not been to Rome at the time of this writing. Imagine an American citizen never visiting Washington D.C. (Paul finally reaches Rome some 3 years after he wrote Romans<sup>1</sup> - see Acts 28:15).
- But Paul wasn't the typical Roman citizen - a Jewish man, former pharisee (an expert in the Jewish Scriptures).
- Paul often ministered to other Jews, but his primary ministry was to **Gentiles** (Greek *ethnesin*) - people who were racially & religiously different than him. Paul didn't have a "*let their kind take care of their kind*" attitude.

**Romans 1:14-15** I am **obligated** both to **Greeks** and **barbarians**, both to **the wise** and **the foolish**. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

Romans classified themselves as **Greeks** (often called Greco-Roman) - cultured and civilized people - speaking the Greek language that this very writing (Romans) was written in. The **barbarians** were considered uncivilized savages by the Greeks.

Paul parallels these terms - **Greeks and barbarians**, with **wise and foolish**. Paul's *ministry is to both the elite and educated as well as to the simple & uncultured*. Paul takes seriously the command to make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19), to take the **gospel** (good news) to all kinds of people. Paul knew that the heartbeat of God is the salvation of all nations & generations.

Paul was quick to remind believers to focus what UNITES us - the gospel message - not on what DIVIDES us.

**Romans 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who **believes**, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek.

The **gospel** ("good news") transforms lives, and unites those who were once divided! It had so transformed the guy writing this text - Paul - that he changed teams - from persecuting followers of Jesus to leading people to follow Jesus! Paul knew better than most, that....

**BIG TRUTH: Christians unite under ONE KING and ONE KINGdom.**

Paul made this clear in multiple writings.

**Colossians 3:11** In Christ there is not **Greek** and **Jew**, **circumcision** and **uncircumcision**, **barbarian**, **Scythian**, **slave** and **free**; but Christ is all and in all.

**Galatians 3:27-28** For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is no **Jew** or **Greek**, **slave** or **free**, **male** and **female**; since **you are all one in Christ Jesus**.

<sup>1</sup> Grant R. Osborne, *Acts: Verse by Verse, Osborne New Testament Commentaries* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2019), 477.

\* Paul isn't denying distinctions and differences. He's saying these differences DON'T DIVIDE us!

**Christians unite under ONE KING and ONE KINGdom.**

There is a brotherhood in Christ between people of very different cultures and colors. It's okay to be proud patriots of our nations, but Christians were/are to FIRST pledge allegiance to Jesus and His Kingdom. **Christians unite under ONE KING and ONE KINGdom.**

As many media outlets attempt to further divide Americans by political or racial distinctions, followers of Jesus MUST NOT BE DIVIDED!

➡ Isn't THIS the time that we can STAND and SHOW the watching world the difference Jesus makes in humanity? Isn't the time that we SAY and SHOW that we are NOT ASHAMED of the Gospel message that is the power of God to salvation for ALL who believe? Are we going to SHOW it? Are we going to make the 1st move or wait until someone else does?



➡ **Dream of Unity Rally today @ 2pm Courthouse.** (Police Presence will be there).

➡ **Be intentional to SHOW others** (red, yellow, black, and white) **they are VALUABLE!**

➡ **Be intentional caring for other brothers/sisters!** Invite folks from different church/ethnicity to eat together and talk about what unites us - JESUS!

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

\* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Justin** (704-618-6144), **Christy** (673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

\* Or call our **deacons & wives:** Steve & Debbie Bass (673-7952), Freddy & Joyce Howard (973-0047), Jere & Darlene Burnette (673-1888), Fain & Linda Poppell (464-1282), Jim & Derita Pinkard (229-834-4307), or Boss & Amelia Mulkey (673-1387).