

Masterpiece Series: A Multiethnic Church by Pastor Omar

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I. God's Design for the church is to be multiethnic (Ephesians 2:11-17)

- The church at Ephesus was composed of both Jews and Gentiles. The Gentiles in the region of Ephesus included barbarians, Africans, Greek, Romans & Asians.
- God's purpose from the beginning was to form a new humanity from both Jews and Gentiles (V. 15)
- Jews and Gentiles in Ephesus tended to be segregated and tended to distrust one another. It is in this context that Paul reminds the church that the Gospel of Christ has arrived & it teaches that everyone has been created in God's image and because of Christ's sacrifice all of humanity can now be reconciled to God and to one another.
- There are other passages in N.T. that speak to this reality: the Masterpiece that God designed for the church to be is to be diverse in race, gender, and social class

Why are there so few local Christian churches that are multiethnic?

- The failure to recognize the dividing walls within each culture.
- Paul reminds the church Christ has destroyed the walls of hostility that existed between Jews & Gentiles (v. 14)
- Over 2000 years later the church still struggles with visible and invisible walls. These walls range from assumptions that our own tradition or culture has the best way for doing church, to lack of awareness of the current needs and obstacles that are unique to each culture, to the belief that all people should see eye to eye on every political, doctrinal issue.

The reason this is completely worth it is to build a multiethnic church is because it's God's design for the church to be diverse. Secondly, it is through this diverse church that He intends to transform lives.

II. A Multiethnic church will lead to transformed lives in our culture today.

- In Ephesians 3 Paul reveals the mystery of the Gospel that previous generations had missed is that through the Gospel Gentiles are heirs together with the Jews. (Eph. 3:6)
- The reason why the church as a collective is supposed to be this place where deep transformation takes place is because it is supposed to be a church that is fully diverse yet united under their commitment to follow Jesus.
- Can you imagine a place or a space where people from different ethnic backgrounds, different social classes willingly show up because it is a place of healing, hope, and transformation?

How can we as a church move into becoming a diverse place where healing, hope and transformation occurs?

- Actively willing to learn from other cultures and with embracing being uncomfortable.
- How do we willingly learn from others and embrace being uncomfortable?
- **Habit of Incarnational Listening**
 - a. **Leave your world**, which means let go of the familiar, take the risk and step out especially with regards to race and culture.
 - b. **Enter into someone else's world**: The way you do this by practicing active, humble, and curious listening.
 - c. **Allow yourself to be formed by others**. Be open to other people's worldviews while holding on to yourself. What this means here is that we all can learn something from others.

Conclusion

- We desire to actively learn more about how to become more diverse and how to lead in racial reconciliation.
- There is also an event coming up in 5 weeks that will be hosted by us here at E-free. Sunday April 3rd starting at 4:30 pm we are hosting an interactive presentation and conversation around Racial reconciliation and the Church.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul teaches in Ephesians 2:11-17 that God's designed for the church is to be a diverse church composed on different ethnicities. Why do you think we see few churches in our local community that are multiethnic?
2. What walls do you currently see standing in the way of our church becoming multiethnic?
3. How can the church become a place or a space where people from different ethnic backgrounds, different social classes willingly show up because it is place of healing, hope, and transformation?
4. How do you think the habit of Incarnational Listening can help you in bridging cultural gaps with people of other cultures in your community?
5. Which of the components of Incarnational Listening do you find the most challenging?