

## Life Group Questions - *Unity, Equality, and Glory: Part 4* – Ephesians 1:1-10

### UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

---

1. *Main Idea of the Passage:* The gospel is both personal conversion and growth in piety AND it is cosmic renewal.

### Outline

---

1. The Personal and Cosmic Gospel
  - A. The Gospel is theological
  - B. The Gospel is relational
  - C. The Gospel is power for individuals and local churches and the church worldwide
  - D. The Gospel is also cosmic

### Interpretation Help

---

### Gospel Centrality

---

1. The gospel is historical, theological, and practical message that has ripples to everything in the universe. Nothing is untouched by the gospel.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

---

### Warming Up

---

1. Jay talked about framework, both personal and the text's — have you considered before how using your personal framework to interpret Scripture is drastically different than using the text's framework to interpret itself?

### Letting the Text Shape our Framework

---

1. The Personal and Cosmic Gospel
  - A. The Gospel is theological – What does the text say about God? What does Paul want us to know about Him?
  - B. The Gospel is relational – What does the text say about the relationship between God and mankind? How was God the main agent of relationship?
  - C. The Gospel is power for individuals and local churches and the church worldwide – What are the promises we have “in Christ” in this text?
  - D. The Gospel is also cosmic – What does verse 10 say about the cosmic reality of the gospel? In what ways does this reality perhaps change the way you have sought racial unity and equality?

## Traveling Through the Cross

---

1. Is your framework getting in the way of the text? There will be no power in and through CHBC on the issue of race (or any other gospel issue) if we do not let Jesus rule us and lead us through his word.

## Applying This Passage to our Lives

---

1. Here a Jay's practical points. Process through these as a group and come up with ways to take a step forward in these areas:
  - A. How to talk with fellow believers who don't want to budge:
    - i. #1 – We must talk with people in the spirit of unity and equality .
    - ii. #2 – Text. Text. Text. We must be bible people and show our work.
    - iii. #3 – Be gracious and patient with immovable people but if they are unreasonable and unfaithful to Scripture then move on and be clear you think they are out of step with the gospel.
    - iv. #4 – Help your friend see that commitment in the midst of confusion is possible. How do we be a people that hold strong to Scripture even in the midst of “article sending” culture?
    - v. #5 – As you talk with resistant people, trust the power of the Holy Spirit who can use the gospel to break through to people (“*Let the club head do the work*”).
    - vi. #6 – Remember, the only reason you have a compassionate heart for this issue is because God did a work of grace in your heart. How do you set up daily reminders of this reality?
  - B. What are some next steps?
    - i. Come to community dinner (Feb. 6) and engage in a panel discussion with Jay and other minority leaders at CHBC on how to move forward in unity.
    - ii. Apply for Triangle Fellows – Open house (Feb 27) at Counter Culture Coffee
    - iii. What is your sphere of influence and what is **one step** you can take, starting tomorrow?
      - Just start
      - Get partners who love Jesus
      - Pray a lot
      - It starts with relationship
    - iv. We pray and take healthy steps to become a more gospel diverse church (consider what the ethnic and cultural makeup the Triangle brings).
  - C. Cultivating a Gospel culture with teeth
    - i. We need to consider any hinderance of consistently letting Jesus make ripples of salvation and common grace good fan out from us!