

We Are All In This Family Together

May 6, 2018 ✨ WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

The Context for the Story

- Acts 10:22 PASSION

“Cornelius, a Roman military captain, ... sent us to find you. He is a devout man of the highest integrity who worships God and is respected throughout the Jewish community. He was divinely instructed through the appearance of an angel to summon you to his home and to listen to the message that you would bring him.”

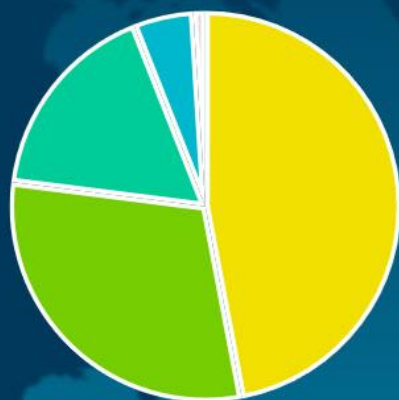
The Arc of the Story

- Acts 10:44-48
- Luke indicates that across racial and cultural lines we share a co-humanity that binds us together equally before God and with each other
- The three conversions of Acts 8, 9, & 10 are of a black man, a Jew, and a gentile

Galatians 3:28-29 THE MESSAGE




“In Christ’s family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ’s family, then you are Abraham’s famous ‘descendant,’ heirs according to the covenant promises.”

Graeme Sellers DNA



- 47% Great Britain
- 30% Europe West
- 17% Ireland/Scotland/Wales
- 5% Finland/Northwest Russia
- 1% Other Regions

[View Full Results](#)

-  Shared Ancestor Hints
-  DNA Matches
-  DNA Circles

Our Common Ancestry

- “Our sisterhood and brotherhood in the family of God is imprinted in our hearts, minds, and souls. It is part of our spiritual DNA. We did not choose it and we cannot choose to undo it. We may love it, we may hate it, we may protest it, or we may ignore it. But the truth is, regardless of our color—red, brown, yellow, black, or white—we are all in the family for good.” [Barndt, Joseph. *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness*. Fortress Press. Kindle Edition, ©2011, p. 12]

Our Common Call

- “The central purpose of the Christian faith is to put the family of God back together again. The incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus are God’s actions to overcome brokenness and division, to restore our relationships as sisters and brothers.”

[Barndt, Joseph. *Becoming an Anti-Racist Church: Journeying Toward Wholeness*. Fortress Press. Kindle Edition, ©2011, p. 13]

Our Common Call

- All Christians are called to take a stand
- Encoded in the Great Commission is a direct command to cross racial lines—“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Christianity is not fully authentic unless it is multiracial
- Racism is at war with the central reality of the Father’s love, a love which casts a vision of our co-humanity possessing strength through radical inclusion and equality



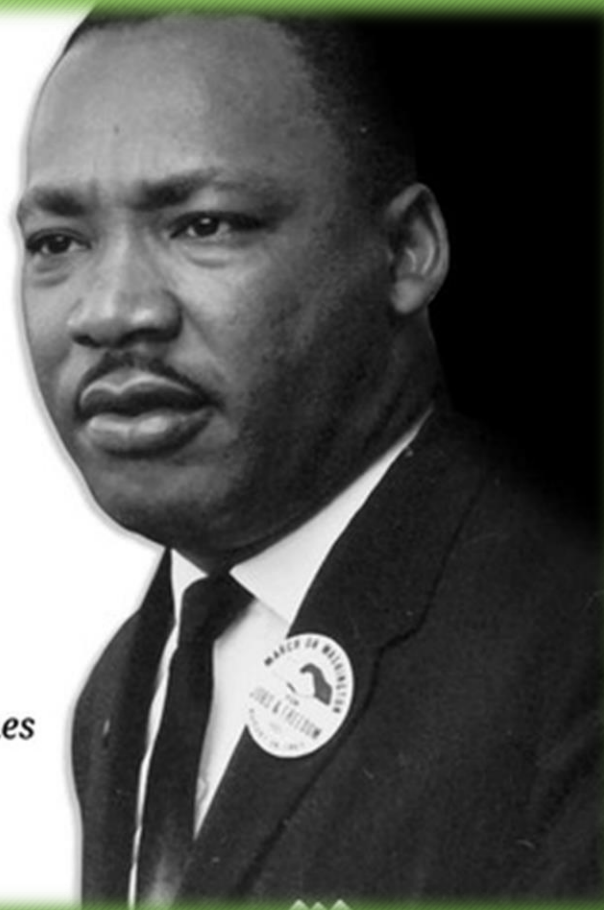
Don't imagine it's accidental that a burning cross is the featured icon of the KKK, the oldest American white supremacist hate group. It is a satanic co-opting of the premiere Christian symbol of grace, unity, and co-humanity.

The Most Powerful Answer to Racism

Darkness cannot drive out darkness: **only light can do that.** Hate cannot drive out hate: **only love can do that.**

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

*A Testament of Hope:
The Essential Writings and Speeches*



How Love Gets Out

- How does this love get out and make havoc with the plans and purposes of the enemy? Our text indicates how: “*the Holy Spirit suddenly interrupted and came upon all the people who were listening*” [Acts 10:44 VOICE]
- **Romans 5:5b** NKJV
“...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

THE ARK



THE DOVE



February 1967

Gibsonia,
Pennsylvania

The birth of the
Catholic Charismatic
Renewal Movement





“People of all types—educated, uneducated, rich, poor, African-Americans, Asians, Hispanics, whites, men, women, native-born, recent immigrants, and foreign visitors—prayed, sang, and came to the altar together. In the words of Frank Bartleman, ‘The color line was washed away in the blood.’”

[Robert Owens, “The Azusa Street Revival: The Pentecostal Movement Begins in America,” in *The Century of the Holy Spirit: 101 Years of Pentecostal and Charismatic Renewal, 1901-2001*, ed. by Vinson Synan (Nashville: Thomas Nelson), ©2001, p. 54.]

William J. Seymour and the Azusa Street Revival
1906 | Los Angeles, California

The Most Powerful Answer to Racism

- The most powerful answer to racism in our day is a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- That's what will change hearts and obliterate racial, societal, ethnic, and cultural barriers
- Praying for this is our first, best response (though not our only response)

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