

1. All people are made in God's image. – Genesis 1:26-28
2. Sin has broken our image bearing. – Genesis 3:1-7
3. God created different ethnicities to display His image. – Genesis 11:1-9
4. God had a plan from the beginning to overcome the division caused by sin and get glory from ethnic diversity in His Kingdom. – Genesis 12:1-3
5. Jesus declared that ethnic diversity in His Kingdom is a demonstration of salvation by grace through faith. – Matthew 8:5-13
6. The cross of Jesus is the power for salvation and reconciliation to one another. – Ephesians 2:14-16
7. The Spirit ushers in a new era in God's Kingdom marked by ethnic diversity. – Acts 2:1-12
8. The immeasurable worth of Jesus will be seen through the ethnic diversity of His Kingdom. – Revelation 5:8-10 & 7:9-10

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Did you learn anything new from this sermon? If so, what?
2. Prior to this sermon would you have agreed that issues of ethnicity represent important opportunities for the gospel to go forward? Do you agree or disagree now? Why?
3. Do you find a temptation to devalue people of other ethnicities in yourself? Are there non-sinful aspects of their culture which frustrate or anger you? Where do you think this comes from? What do confession and repentance look for you in light of this?
4. What aspects of your ethnic heritage do you think honor God and reflect His image? Which ones do you think don't?
5. What do you think are the important distinctions between how Christians should think about this issue and how the world thinks about it? How can we avoid the pitfalls of a worldly perspective without dismissing or minimizing the issue?
6. How is God inviting you to join what He is doing to display the gospel through reconciliation of people across ethnic lines?

Memory Verses: Ephesians 2:14-16

For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

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