

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

January 4, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

**Open in prayer.**

**Introduction.**

- Have you ever seen something so beautiful that it captivated you?
- Have you ever placed your trust, peace, or hope in someone or something other than Jesus? What happened?
- Discuss the statement, *No one has loved or had compassion or provided a vision for life that is more beautiful than Jesus.*
- If you grew up in the church, how was “eternal life” described?
- How does the following definition of “eternal life” transform the way we live? *Eternal life means that Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, shares His beautiful eternal life with us so that God can have a beautiful family here on earth that mirrors heaven.* (HINT: When we declare who God is, we know who we are, and we can display God’s glory to a hurt world.)

**Read and discuss Romans 15:5-13.**

- This Scripture begins with a prayer and ends with a prayer.
- How many times do you read “give God glory” or “give glory”?

**What’s the problem?**

**Ethnic disunity diminishes the glory of God.**

- There’s only one race...the human race.
- The human race is made up of many ethnicities.
- Paul only started ethnically diverse churches that reflected the new heaven and new earth.
- What’s wrong with Ethnocentrism (my ethnic group is better than yours)?
- Why do you think so many churches in America are mono-ethnic (homogeneous)?
- Why does ethnic disunity diminish God’s glory?

**What’s God’s desire?**

**Live in harmony with one another, praising and glorifying God with one voice.**

**Read and discuss Romans 15:5-6.**

- How does praying, “Thy will be done” instead of “my will be done” change the way we pray?
- Why do we need patience and encouragement to live in complete harmony with one another?
- How do the following statistics speak against this Scripture?
- Nine out of ten churches are homogeneous...mono-ethnic.
- Local churches are ten times more segregated than the schools they are around.
- Local churches are twenty times more segregated than the neighborhoods they are around.
- Discuss this statement: *If you want to know if you love yourself correctly, watch how you treat people.*

**What’s God’s desire?**

**Accept each other the way Christ accepted you.**

**Read and discuss Romans 15:7.**

- When we accept others as Christ accepted us, we bring God glory.
- Is there someone—an individual or group—you have a difficult time accepting?
- How does remembering how Christ accepted you change the way you think about that person or group?

**What gives us the power to fulfill God’s desire?**

**The Gospel**

- The word “gospel” (evangelism) was taken from the Romans.
- When a new emperor appeared, he would send out apostles (messengers) who would proclaim the gospel (good news) of a new emperor.
- They would tell the Romans if you bow your knee to him and confess him as savior and lord he will bring you peace and prosperity.
- Why is it important for Christians to use words from our culture?

**What gives us the power to fulfill God's desire?**

**The Person and work of the Messiah through the Holy Spirit.**

**Read and discuss Romans 15:8.**

- Messiah means anointed one.

**Read and discuss Romans 15:9-12.**

- Paul is reminding the Jews that it's not about ethnicities, it's about the blood of Christ and His transformation to creating a beautiful people in Christ.
- Why is it important for us to never forget what it was like before we knew Jesus?
- How do we know someone has experienced God's mercy in their hearts?

**Read and discuss Galatians 3:8-9.**

**Result: We glorify God by becoming a preview of heaven on earth. (Hope, Joy, Peace.)**

**Read and discuss Romans 15:13.**

- Discuss the following statements:
  - *Our hope is in God because He is immutable (unchangeable).*
  - *Our joy is rooted in our relationship with the One who is Joy Himself.*
  - *Our peace is found in the Prince of Peace.*
- How does the following statement change the way we look at eternal life? *God's greatest goal isn't to get you to heaven when you die, but to get in you so that you're a preview of Him to a world that needs Him!*

**Soul-tattoo: Say "Yes" to praising and glorifying God.**

- Transformers, go deeper into what it means to be an owner of Transformation Church.
- Teens, get connected at TC Teens if you're not connected to your parents' TC group.
  - Grow in the Five Characteristics of a Transformer.

**Close in prayer.**

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**CALENDAR**

Newcomer Connection  
Transform U: Career and Calling  
TC Teens  
BECAUSE Campaign  
Learn More About What's Happening at TC

January 11, 6pm  
January 24 & 31: 7:30am-12pm  
Wednesday's, 6pm  
Because.TransformationChurch.tc  
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