

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE: WE ARE UNDER OBLIGATION

January 18, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**
- **Introduction**
- **An overview of the Roman world.**
  - Rome was an international culture obsessed with class and religion.
  - Eighty-five to ninety percent of the Roman people were slaves—indentured servants. And some slaves had a higher class than those who weren't slaves.
  - Romans were called Greeks because Alexander the Great brought Greek culture throughout the world. This was called the Hellenization of Rome. They called everyone else barbarians...the lowest of lows. The following two prayers give you an indication of where that culture was:
    - Greeks (men) would pray, "Thank you that I'm not a barbarian (lower class), thank you that I'm not a slave (class), and thank you that I'm not a woman (gender)."
    - Jews (men) would pray, "Thank you that I'm not a gentile (non-Jew), not a slave (class), and thank you that I'm not a woman (sexism)."
  - In the midst of this culture, Paul was planting multi-ethnic churches filled with these people.
  - Jesus created a new race, a new people overwhelmed by His love and forgiveness. And the multi-ethnic church was made up of people from different ethnicities, classes, genders, and working relationships who were all in the process of sanctification.
  - Salvation is about God invading earth and giving the world a picture of what heaven looks like.
  - Jesus' goal isn't for you to get to heaven when you die, it's about Him infusing heaven in you so that you can be a picture of His love in the midst of this fractured and broken world.
- **Read Romans 1:8-15**
- **Jesus wants you to be thankful for your brothers and sisters.**
- **Read Romans 1:8a.**
  - The world teaches transactional relationships where we use people.
  - In Christ, we have transformational relationships because Jesus died for us and our intrinsic worth is in Him alone.
  - Are you thankful for your brothers and sisters in Christ? Those you know and those you don't know?
  - If Jesus died for you how can you not be thankful for others?
  - Discuss the statement, "How you treat people is a reflection of how you think Jesus treats you".
  - What happens when we understand the sacredness of every single human being?
- **Jesus wants your faith and service to Him to be known in the "world."**
- **Read Romans 1:8b and Matthew 5:16.**
  - We want people to know our good works for the glory of God.
  - What are some of the "good works" here at TC that show God's glory?
  - Is your faith and service known in your "world"?
- **Jesus wants you to pray for and to encourage your brothers and sisters.**
- **Read and discuss Romans 1:9-13.**
  - The greatest thing you can do is pray for each other and encourage each other.
  - The most intimate, loving, and powerful thing you can do for others is to pray for them.
  - Prayer says we are dependent on Him.
  - What does it look like for you to "pray without ceasing"?
  - How does American individualism and consumption often hijack your prayers?
  - What happens when you readjust your prayers and start praying for other people?
  - How is praying for and encouraging one another a picture of "teamwork makes the dream work"?

- **How should we pray?**
- **Read and discuss Matthew 6:9-15.**
  - o The Lord's Prayer is not a transactional prayer but a transformational prayer.
  - o Thank God that's He's our Father in heaven.
  - o Prayer shows your need for God and gives you an opportunity to tap into Him for your life.
  - o Discuss how the Lord's Prayer is an upward, inward, outward prayer.
  - o Break the prayer down into sections and pray it for yourself, for your family, for your friends, for your church, for Christians around the world.
  - o Discuss how the three things Pastor Derwin said can destroy a person's life—sex, money and power—need boundaries in your life.
  - o If Jesus forgave you, how can you not forgive others? Is there someone you need to forgive today?
- **Jesus wants you to join Him in building His multi-ethnic Church.**
- **Read Romans 1:14.**
  - o Under obligation means we have no choice but to build multi-ethnic churches!
  - o Transformers, we have no choice...we are under obligation to have a "multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped community that loves God completely (upward), ourselves correctly (inward), and others compassionately (outward)".
  - o How does living an upward, inward, and outward life help you live a "multi-ethnic, multi-generational, mission-shaped life?"
  - o Take time to thank God for the privilege we have as Transformation Church to be a reflection of heaven on earth and pray for God's bride—His Church—to be that same reflection.
- **Read and discuss 2 Corinthians 11:21b-33.**
  - o This is what Paul's life looked like and what he went through because he was planting multi-ethnic churches.
  - o What does this say about Paul and about his culture?
  - o What does Paul's prayer, "If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying," say about His character and His relationship with Christ?
  - o What does this passage say to you about how you allow Christ to live His life in and through you?
- **Soul-tattoo: Preach the gospel to one another and to lost people.**
- **Read Romans 1:15.**
  - o A great way to "preach the gospel to one another and to the lost people" is to live out the Five Characteristics of a Transformer—worship, connect, serve, give, and invite. To learn more about these, go to our website at <http://www.transformationchurch.tc/newhere/nextsteps/>.

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## CALENDAR

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

January 24 & 31: 7:30am-12pm  
Wednesday's, 6pm  
[Because.TransformationChurch.tc](http://Because.TransformationChurch.tc)  
[TransformationChurch.tc](http://TransformationChurch.tc)