

# TOGETHER WITH ONE VOICE

We Are His Multi-colored, Multi-cultural People

June 14, 2015 - Pastor Derwin L. Gray

- **Open in prayer.**

- **Introduction.**

Following Jesus isn't about finding self-fulfillment even though that's what our culture tells us every day.

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is about you and me getting lost in God's story which is about His glory and then we find fulfillment in Him as a part of His family.

Jesus' primary occupation is to glorify His Father and to create a people intoxicated by His purpose—people on mission, overwhelmed by God, reveling in His love—who love others in a way that is foreign to the world. The church, His bride, should be a family that the world wants to be a part of it.

We're not color blind—we're color blessed and we compose the beautiful face of Jesus.

As you read Romans 9 -11 remember they can be framed this way:

Romans 9 is about Israel's past.

The Exodus.

Romans 10 is about Israel's present.

2000 years ago.

Romans 11 is about Israel's future.

Ethnically-diverse people come together.

- **God is unrelenting in building His multi-colored, multi-cultural people.**

- **Read and discuss the following scripture passages:**

- 1- Romans 9:10-13, Genesis 25:23, Genesis 33:3, and Matthew 10:37**

- When we understand God's story, we realize it's not about our story but about being a part of His.

- The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed.

- o What's the difference between inviting God into our story versus us joining His story?

- o Discuss this statement: When you love God completely—more than anyone else—you can love people correctly.

- 2- Romans 9:14-16, Exodus 33:18-20**

- We don't make God passionate or merciful...He's passionate and merciful by nature.

- Paul is quoting what took place in the wilderness.

- o How does knowing God is passionate and merciful change our view of God when we face difficult situations?

- o What has God's mercy and compassion looked like in your life?

- o Why is it important to remember God's faithfulness during trying times in your life?

- 3- Romans 9:17-18, Exodus 7:13, 14, 22; 8:11, 15, 28; 9:7, 34, 35, 13:15**

- Pharaoh chose to harden his own heart.

- Every time Pharaoh chose to not follow God his heart got harder.

- o How did God show His mercy to Pharaoh and what did Pharaoh do each time?

- o Have you ever been at a place where you've exhausted God's mercy?

- o What can we do to avoid hardening our hearts towards God? (HINT: Upward, Inward, Outward)

- 4- Exodus - 4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17.**

- God hardened Pharaoh's heart with mercy.

- o Have you been in a place where God, in His mercy, allowed you to experience His discipline?

- o Why is discipline a form of grace and mercy?

**5- Romans 9:19-21, Jeremiah 18:5-7**

- We can let God melt our heart with Grace or we can let Him harden our hearts with Grace.
  - According to this statement, *Repent means to change your mind and agree with God*, what does it mean to repent of your sins?
  - Can you share an experience when God's grace melted your heart? Hardened your heart?

**6- Romans 9:22-25**

- With great patience God is asking you to obey and trust in Him.
- When Paul mentions the Gentiles following Jesus, the Jews wanted them to obey the Jewish laws but Paul says it's not about ethnicity (being an ethnic Jew), it's about Jesus.
- Hosea says, "God will call them (the Gentiles) my people" and "I will call her (the church) my loved one".
  - In what ways has God been patient with you?
  - Discuss this statement: No one has ever grown staying in their comfort zone...and when your comfort zone maximizes your way of life, why change?
  - How does Hosea's statement, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved,'" change the way we look at other people?

- **We are God's people: Because of grace, not race.**

- **Read and discuss Romans 10:10-13.**

- God is creating a new race defined by Jesus, not by the color of our skin.
  - Why are we (Transformers) a better church because of our diversity?
  - Why is it important for you to hear other people's stories?
  - Discuss the following statement and give examples: Different vantage points in life allow you to see things from different perspectives.
  - How have you been richly blessed? (HINT: Ephesians 1:3)

- **As a result of being God's people: Let's love and be for each other.**

- **Read and discuss Romans 12:10.**

- Paul's encouraging us to love one another by being "devoted" to one another and to "honor" one another above ourselves.
  - How does this scripture go against the cultural norm?
  - How often do you pray to be devoted to and honor one another?
  - What does it look like to honor someone above yourself?
  - Do you love people more than things? How do you know? (HINT: How do you spend your time, talent, and treasures?)
  - Who are some of the "others" you have difficulty loving? How does living an upward, inward, outward life transform that love?

- **Soul-tattoo: Commit to making TC a beautiful, loving people.**

- You can do your part by living out the Five Characteristics: Worship, Connect, Serve, Give and Invite.
- You want to be great? Serve others. It's good for you and it's good for your community.
  - Share with your team how you are living out the Five Characteristics.
  - Are you an Owner/Member of TC? IF not, be sure and sign up for our next Class 1—Who We Are.  
<http://www.transformationchurch.tc/newhere/nextsteps/membershipclasses.php>

- **Close in prayer.**