

Race and Christianity II

What's the problem?

Many of us might *passively* agree that racism is bad and that multi-ethnicity is good, but why should we be motivated to *actively* pursue multi-ethnicity here at IGC? And what practical steps can we take to move towards realizing that vision?

Two goals: (1) Why we should actively seek multi-ethnicity and (2) How we can actively seek multi-ethnicity.

Why we should actively seek multi-ethnicity

(1) For God: God loves the nations

Genesis 12:1-3

1 “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. **2** And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, **so that you will be a blessing.** **3** I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**”

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(2) For us: We need people who are different from us

1 Corinthians 12:12-20

12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and **all the members of the body, though many, are one body**, so it is with Christ. **13** For in one Spirit **we were all baptized into one body**—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. **14** For the body does not consist of one member but of many. **15** If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, **where would be the sense of hearing?** If the whole body were an ear, **where would be the**

sense of smell? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. **19** If all were a single member, where would the body be? **20 As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.**

(3) For others: It is a powerful witness

John 17:20-23

20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21 that they may all be one**, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, **so that the world may believe that you have sent me.** **22** The glory that you have given me I have given to them, **that they may be one** even as we are one, **23** I in them and you in me, **that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me** and loved them even as you loved me.

(4) Gospel response

Galatians 2:11-14

11 But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. **12** For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. **13** And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. **14** But when I saw that **their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel**, I said to Cephas before them all, “If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

How we can actively seek multi-ethnicity

(1) Prayer

Romans 15:5-7

5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to **live in such harmony with one another**, in accord with Christ Jesus, **6** that together you **may with one voice glorify the God** and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **7** Therefore **welcome one another** as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

(2) Obedience

Acts 1:8; 8:1, 4-6

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**...

8:1 And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were **all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria**, except the apostles...

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. **5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ.****6** And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip...

Acts 8:26-30

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. **27 And he rose and went.** And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." **30 So Philip ran to him** and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet...