

Text: Revelations 7:9-12

Introduction:

The changing **cultural** landscape of America

The **clarion** call for the church

A. BIBLICAL ROOTS

1. We are all created with the **Imago** Dei. (Genesis 1:26-28)
2. **Israel** as a migrant people were to be gracious to the other nations (Leviticus 19:33-34; Zechariah 7:10)
3. The **incarnation** of Christ models the missional character of the church and the people of God (Philippians 2:1-8)
4. The apostolic church resembles an **inclusion** of different race, culture, ethnicity and language (Acts 2:1-11)
5. All of us retain our unique **identity** in the celestial gathering (Revelations 7:9)

B. HISTORICAL RESPONSES

1. Separation
2. Reconciliation
3. Integration
4. Assimilation
5. Inclusion

C. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Embrace** your identity and those who are different from you (1 Corinthians 9:20-22)
2. **Educate** and cultivate cultural intelligence (Acts 17:22-23)
3. Build bridges through shared **experiences** (John 4:1-6)
4. Pursue new **encounters** (Acts 10:27-35)
5. Live a life of compassion and be **engaged** (Matthew 9:36-38)

1. Martin Luther King Jr. says, “9 o’clock Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America.” The church should have been the bastion of inclusiveness, why is the church still lagging behind in being united? Share your honest reflections and observations.
2. Let us trace some of the theological foundations of being inclusive. Browse and read each of these passages and explain their relevance to the vision of being a multiethnic church:
 - Genesis 1:26-28
 - Leviticus 19:33-34 and Zechariah 7:10
 - Philippians 2:1-8
 - Acts 2:1-11
 - Revelations 7:9
3. Below are some principles you can develop in being active as a ‘bridge’ to other cultures and ethnicities. Do a self-assessment and share your most reliable and weakest areas.
 - Embrace your identity and those who are different from you (1 Corinthians 9:20-22)
 - Educate and cultivate cultural intelligence (Acts 17:22-23)
 - Build bridges through shared experiences (John 4:1-6)
 - Pursue new encounters (Acts 10:27-35)
 - Live a life of compassion and be engaged (Matthew 9:36-38)
4. One of the core values of Charisma Life Church is to be a blended community. For the year 2019, how can your Life Group be a microcosm of this vision? Share practical and tangible suggestions. Strategize how can this be fulfilled and close the meeting by praying for your group to become a multiethnic, multicultural and multiracial community.

PRAY

Conclusion