

ROOTS

HE MADE US A RIGHTEOUS FAMILY

Pastor Derwin L. Gray – September 25, 2016

1. Open in prayer for Charlotte. Ask the Lord to bring healing.
2. What were your thoughts about the sermon? What impacted you the most and why?
3. Pastor Derwin said, "The Bible is a story about how Jesus reconciles, unites, and creates a multiethnic family called the people of God, who join in the mission of God."
 - a. Read Genesis 12:1-3. In light of Genesis 12:1-3, what do you think of Pastor Derwin's statement?
 - b. Read Genesis 11:1-9. Note: God separated the people because of sin (they wanted to make a name for themselves). Yet, as a loving Father, He promises to bring His multiethnic family back together through Abraham. Discuss this narrative and its implications for us.

How Does God Create This Multiethnic Family?

1. Through the Gospel, which is bigger and more beautiful than we realize.
 - a. Read Galatians 3:7-9. What is the Gospel that was preached beforehand to Abraham?
 - b. What are the practical implications of what Paul said was the Gospel?
 - c. Note: Through the work of Jesus, by the shedding of His blood and resurrection from the dead, by faith, people are vertically reconciled to God and horizontally reconciled to one another, creating a multiethnic family. (Read Ephesians 2:8-16)
2. Through being incorporated in the righteousness of Jesus. Read Romans 3:21-24 and Galatians 3:24-29.
 - a. Note: Many Jews believed there was a distinction between Jews and Gentiles. Because Gentiles were not "under the law", Jews regarded them as unclean. The Apostle Peter shared this perspective when he arrived at the house of a Gentile named Cornelius (Acts 10:27-28). However, once he saw that God had given the Spirit to Gentiles, just as He had to Jews, he realized that God did not make distinctions based on race (Acts 10:34, 45).¹
 - b. The multiple house churches in Rome were comprised of ethnically diverse people, the Jews and Gentiles. They were not getting along. Paul declares to the people of God that Jesus is their righteousness and therefore, Jews and Gentiles are equal before God and should not look down upon each other. We are a forgiven, loved, and equally righteous people.

So What Does This Mean?

- a. Read Galatians 3:27-29.
- b. Ethnocentrism is defeated by the work of Jesus.
 - Pastor Derwin said, "Our ethnic diversity is not to be obliterated (or tolerated), but celebrated." What do you think of this truth?
- c. Classism is defeated by the work of Jesus.
 - Discuss Pastor Derwin's statement, "Treat everyone like Jesus died for them."
- d. Sexism is defeated by the work of Jesus.
 - Men and women are equal in God's kingdom. What do you think of this Gospel truth?
- e. The Church exists to show people God's hope and purpose for humanity. Our goal is not to be problem-free, but for God to unite us in our problems. Read Revelation 5:9-12.

Close in prayer.

¹ *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press)