

## EKKLESIA

A Conversation about Jesus, the Church and Race

Dr. John Perkins

- Please watch the interview with Dr. Perkins and Curtis Miller before discussing this study guide. [TransformationChurch.tc/watch/latest-sermon/](https://TransformationChurch.tc/watch/latest-sermon/)
- Open in prayer. Thank God that we can be part of His Ekklesia—His church, His family.
- Read and discuss John 17:21-24.
- As you listened to Dr. Perkins story, discuss the following highlights and how God used them to transform his life and develop his passion to see the Church be who God called her to be.
  - Growing up in Mississippi on a plantation his mother died from starvation and that birthed his passion for justice.
  - He moved to California after his brother was killed by white police officers and he localized his hate towards the officers in Mississippi.
  - His son attended a backyard Bible club and learned about Jesus in a multiethnic setting. He came home singing the words from a song “Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world, red, brown, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight”. This became the beginning of his spiritual journey.
  - When he moved back to Mississippi as a Christ follower, he realized that it’s better to solve a problem when you’re living in the problem.
  - Over the years, his passion has been to see God’s people live out the Gospel the way it was intended—as one race, one family under one blood—Jesus’s blood.
  - He said it’s important to realize the black church, the white church, the Hispanic church can’t fix the issue of ethnic divide...it must be the reconciled Church—multiethnic, multigenerational, socioeconomically diverse—imaging Christ to the world.
- Discuss the following statements, or others that stood out to you, by Dr. Perkins and how God can use them to encourage us as we live out as God intended us to live—His ekklesia, His reconciled family—under the blood of Jesus.
  - As Dr. Perkins looked across the audience he was excited to see us living out as a multiethnic church reflecting God’s ekklesia as seen in Revelation 7. He said, “I don’t hardly have to believe this anymore, because I see it here”.
  - Justice is a social, economic, and gospel issue that pertains to the poor and not leaving them out. It’s a stewardship issue. What are we doing to reflect Jesus and His justice to others?
  - We’re overfocused on ourselves. God wants us to focus equally on God, ourselves and others (Great Commandment and Great Commission).
  - The “lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life” cause us to be selfish and think of ourselves as better than others. Jesus changes that through His blood.
  - Joy comes from expectation and anticipation. The Gospel gives us both of those which in turns produces joy in our lives as believers. We expect the goodness of God because He is faithful and we anticipate His return because He promised it.

- The incarnation was about Jesus coming to and living in this painful world, being killed by painful people, dying a painful death and with His blood (life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension) bringing salvation to save us from a painful eternity!
- Racial reconciliation won't work because it's based on an assumption that there are multiple "races". There aren't multiple races. There's only one...the human race! And Jesus Himself has done the work of reconciliation!
- **Soul-tattoo:** We are one blood!  
Read Ephesians 3:16-21 and discuss.
- Close in prayer by praying John 17:21-24.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Dr. Perkins' final word to the Church is described in his latest book, *One Blood*. It's available online.
- *One Blood* book trailer is available at: <https://youtu.be/GJTHRMa1pHc>