

COLOR BLESSED

Week I - What is a color-blessed culture? Part I

SERMON RECAP:

What comes to mind when you think of the word culture? It's a buzz word of sorts in our world currently, but we often don't know what culture really means or what it looks like, especially from a biblical view. There are all sorts of cultural perspectives, but in this message, Pastor Derwin and Vicki Gray unpacked what color-blessed culture looks like. When we embody a color-blessed culture, we showcase the behaviors of a people living in unity and love with one another, celebrating our diversity and praising God for our differences.

Pastor Derwin and Vicki walked us through the first two points of the Reconciler's Creed: worship and justification. The worship of God allows us to love others compassionately and see them as God sees them: part of His beautiful multiethnic family. In fact, the two aren't separate; according to Jesus, loving God and loving others are the greatest commandments, and they go together. Moreover, as we grow in our worship of God, we recognize the righteousness of God, through the blood of Christ, that flows out of our brothers and sisters of different ethnicities. Romans 3:22 says, "This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile." That is the beautiful truth embodied in color-blessed culture!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Upward

- Read Matthew 22:37-39. Why do you think God is so serious about us loving others?
- Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What does it mean to make your thoughts obedient to Christ?
- How does making our thoughts obedient to Christ impact the culture around us?

Inward

- We are loved and justified by the blood of Jesus. Do you see yourself as loved and justified? If not, what do you think are the hurdles that keep you from maintaining this perspective?
- How does the definition of culture provided by Pastor Derwin and Vicki challenge or affirm your view of culture?

Outward

- Read 1 John 4:19-21. This is quite an intense passage as it reminds us that it is impossible to love God and hate others. What does this mean for our lives that loving God and loving others aren't able to be separated? How does this change how you approach loving others? Ask God to help you see ways you can love Him and others more.
- What does it mean to see others as the righteousness of God? How do we hold this perspective even when we see Christ followers making unrighteous decisions?

Soul Tattoo: You are loved and justified by the blood.

Action Step: Join us on May 22 for part two of *What is a Color-Blessed Culture?*