



Session 6 Viewer Guide

DISCUSS

The gospel creates a multicultural community, which is different from a multicolored community. Clearly, having people of different ethnicities in our churches is a blessing, but the gospel goes beyond this level of diversity. Being multicultural is a much broader concept, meaning multiple cultures are expressed and represented in our churches.

- 1) What expressions of worship or church order have you assumed to be the right way but are actually Just cultural preferences?**

God is equally honored through different preferences in church practice.

We must be careful not to assume that the way we worship is inherently more biblical than the way another culture worships. Differences in music, prayer, preaching style, and the order of services derive more from our preferences than from what the Bible prescribes. Being willing to forsake some of our preferences in church practice allows us to reach beyond our primary culture.

- 2) What happens when we take our preferences and elevate them to the level of nonnegotiable truths?**
- 3) The speakers in this video session pointed out that our experience determines not only our preferences but also the way we approach a Bible text. How could becoming more multicultural help us appreciate the Bible better?**

All of the New Testament letters deal with issues that stem from cultural preferences. Our cultural identity shapes how we live in dozens of ways. This fact extends to life in the body of Christ. God loves people from every culture, and there are aspects of every culture that glorify God. When we expand our community, we have the privilege of learning more about the God we serve, the people who bear His image, and the Word that communicates His heart.

- 4) How diverse is your network of relationships? What keeps us from living multicultural lives?**
- 5) Read 2 Corinthians 5:16. How does our identity in Christ reshape the way we see other people?**

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Christ's mission can't be completed unless we're willing to cross cultural boundaries. Doing so requires intentionality and growth on the part of all Christians. The reason we don't have multicultural churches is that we have multicultural lives. When we find our identity in Christ, that should lead us to expand our communities rather than restrict them. Because the gospel is for every culture, we must befriend and love people from every culture.

6) Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. What kind of effort will be required to expand the diversity of our communities?

Having multicultural lives requires that we forgo preferences in nonessential matters, such as the order of worship or the style of music or preaching, for the sake of others. We allow others to teach us their perspectives on what it means to follow Jesus. This process doesn't happen by accident; we have to humble ourselves and work at it.

7) Of the suggestions given on the video for developing multicultural lives, which ones could you put into practice in your church and in your life?

God's coming kingdom will be a people of all colors and cultures united around God's throne in worship (see Rev. 7:9-10). Although our church can't match the diversity of heaven, it should strive to reflect, at a minimum, the diversity of our community. Our willingness to come together across differences and celebrate the one Savior of all shows that we've placed the gospel above all.

Jesus quoted this verse, saying His house would be "a house of prayer for all nations" (Mark 11:17). On the video Walter Strickland suggested that we pray for cultures and ethnicities that aren't our own. Vance Pitman said prayer transcends cultures. If we find that our culture is monolithic, it's time to pray.

8) What are some ways you can pray for your own culture and others with whom you come into contact?

9) What's one way you'd like to grow in your understanding of others? Pray about these matters.