



GOD'S GRAND VISION FOR A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH

The image features a central graphic of a globe with a white landmass silhouette on a golden-yellow circular background. A horizontal orange banner with a ribbon-like edge is superimposed over the center of the globe. The background is a faded, light-colored world map with visible text labels such as 'UNITED STATES', 'AFRICA', 'INDIAN OCEAN', and 'HONGKONG'.

A NEW HUMANITY

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—
¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

Ephesians 2:11-22

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:11-22

²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22



Racial tension is not only a
community issue, it is a
church issue

It is not only a hot topic, it is a
biblical topic



Ephesians is one of four captivity epistles/prison letters (Philippians, Philemon, Colossians and Ephesians) written by the Apostle Paul



WE
ARE
ONE

1) Alienated from Him

(vs. 11-13)

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—
¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ,

Ephesians 2:11-13

excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.
¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:11-13



For some in this room, faith
was “taught not caught”

For others in this room, “faith
was caught, not taught”

Paul provides a list of five “withouts”:

- They were without Christ
- They were without citizenship in Israel
- They were without covenants of the promise
- They were without hope
- They were without God in the world



The result of the cross of Jesus Christ is a vertical reconciliation between God and people



WE
ARE
ONE

2) Reconciled through Him (vs. 14-18)

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

Ephesians 2:14-18

¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:14-18



WE
ARE
ONE

Biblical reconciliation is not a
self-fix, it is a God-fix



WE
ARE
ONE

We are no longer defined by
our ethnicity, we are defined
by our new humanity!



WE
ARE
ONE

A) Jesus is Peace (vs. 14)



WE
ARE
ONE

Peace is first and foremost in
a person



WE
ARE
ONE

The result of the cross of Jesus Christ is a horizontal reconciliation between people



WE
ARE
ONE

B) Jesus preached peace
(vs. 17)

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will
be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

John 14:27

³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:3-6

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:17-20



WE
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3) Together in Him (vs. 19-22)

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household,
²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

Ephesians 2:19-22

²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22



WE
ARE
ONE

The transformation of the gospel is that we have a new capacity for togetherness



WE
ARE
ONE

A new humanity is God's work
of ART
(alienation, reconciliation,
transformation)



WE
ARE
ONE

**A) Social: You are Citizens
with God's People**
(vs. 19a)



WE
ARE
ONE

Our commonality in Christ
expedites our connectedness



WE
ARE
ONE

**B) Personal: You are Members
of God's Household**
(vs. 19b)

¹ Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, ² older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.

1 Timothy 5:1-2



WE
ARE
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**C) Spiritual: You are Stones in
God's Temple**
(vs. 20-21)

He says that gods made by human hands are
no gods at all.

Acts 19:26

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who
build it labour in vain.

Psalm 127:1



⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:5



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