



Racial Reconciliation

SUNDAY

“For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death.”

EPHESIANS 2:14-16, CSB

What is Racial Unity?

BY JORDAN WOOTTEN

There are many misunderstandings about what racial unity is and what it entails. We might think, for example, that unity means uniformity, or sameness. But that would be incorrect. Or, we might assume that unity requires minority groups to assimilate to or be wholly subsumed into the majority culture, surrendering their own God-given distinctives for the sake of unity. This, too, would be an error. The unity that Christ has accomplished for us doesn't require uniformity or assimilation; it is a constitutional reality that we can either embrace by the Spirit or ignore in our flesh.

Instead, racial unity is the reality by which members of every nation, tribe, people, and language, having been redeemed by Christ, adopted by the Father, and sealed by the Spirit, are bound together in Christ as "one new man" and welcomed into the family of God *together* as brothers and sisters.

In Christ, God has put to death everything that divides us and has bound us together as a family. In heaven, this unity has been fully realized. On Earth, we've got some work to do. So, how can we make this heavenly scene more indicative of the communities we belong to now?

In the SBC, one step we're taking is through the Unify Project (theunifyproject.org), an initiative led by pastors Fred Luter and Ed Litton that "provides simple, practical, and effective resources that can be adopted by churches across the Southern Baptist Convention and beyond."

Our churches are yearning for unity, but often struggling to bring it to fruition among their congregations. Our communities are scarred and in turmoil. What are we to do? It is the Church to whom racial unity has been conferred, and by whom racial unity can be displayed and, through the Spirit, offered to a watching world.

So, may we humble ourselves and pray that the unity of God's heavenly Kingdom would be on display in our churches and be on offer for those who are so weary of our divided society and so weighed-down by its effects.

