



Racial Reconciliation

SUNDAY

“After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

REVELATION 7:9, ESV

Why I Am Committed to a Racially Reconciling Church

BY MICAH GASTON

I serve in a city that is scarred by its racial history. As I have studied Scripture, I am convinced that a racially reconciling church pleases God. Among the important lessons I've learned, here are four that make me deeply committed to this kind of church.

A racially reconciling church displays the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham

God handcrafted the first human being in his image, revealing that all humanity has a common ancestry. Then, God sought out a man named Abram, calling him to a covenant through which a Savior would bless all the peoples of the Earth. Through God's work of creation and his covenant with Abraham, it is obvious that God's redemptive work is a multiethnic movement.

A racially reconciling church is essential for reaching the next generation

There is a disconnect for people in our culture when they see diversity in every other sphere of their lives, yet many churches remain monoethnic. By the year 2030, the majority of the working class will be nonwhite, and by the year 2060, 57% of the population will be nonwhite. In other words, the next generation will be multiethnic. If churches do not adjust their methodology for the changing mission field, they might miss reaching the next generation.

A racially reconciling church displays the power of the gospel

Jesus prayed for the unity of the Church (John 17). Many issues are polarizing for people today. Often, this is because they live in "echo chambers." Churches that seek diversity will find conflict. Yet, the power of the gospel is on display whenever the Church functions as God's reconciling agency by helping develop deep empathy and understanding.

A racially reconciling church displays a preview of heaven

Fast forward to the end of history in Revelation 7:9 where every tribe, tongue, and nation are gathered together, worshipping Jesus as one family while maintaining their distinctions of color, culture, and language. The population of heaven is comprised of a redeemed people from all classes, races, and people groups worshipping one risen King.

Micah serves as the campus pastor at the Midtown Campus of 3Circle Church on the Gulf Coast of Alabama.



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

This bulletin insert is a publication of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, 901 Commerce Street Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203

The ministry of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (SBC) is made possible by the sacrificial gifts of Southern Baptists to the Cooperative Program. We are grateful for the Cooperative Program and the prayerful support of Southern Baptists around the world.