SERMON: Racial Unity

Series: Bridging the Divide

Pastor Derek Sanford

February 14, 2016

**Life Group Discussion Questions:**

1. Thinking back on this week’s sermon, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Pastor Derek emphasized the same Big Idea in this sermon on racial unity and in last week’s sermon on generational unity: Bridging Our Differences Lifts Up Christ. Read aloud **Ephesians 2:11-22** and discuss how this passage confirms the Big Idea.
3. Read **Acts 2:1-6.** The Pentecost event, the birth of the church, was clearly multicultural. In what way did the arrival of the Holy Spirit re-unify the nations that had been divided due to sin and pride at the Tower of Babel (**Genesis 11:1-9**)?
4. Read **Acts 13:1-2** and discuss what the diversity of the leadership in the church at Antioch might mean for us today.
5. To take the idea of “bridging our differences” to a personal level, share with your Life Group what life was like for you growing up. What was your high-school experience like? Were you aware that for some other people your age in your own hometown, high-school was very different?
6. Describe any circumstance in which you became aware of your own feeling of prejudice toward someone from a different background. (The prejudice might have been due to ethnic heritage or race or sex or even religion.) If you yourself have ever experienced prejudice, describe the circumstance and explain your feelings.
7. In what situations has your ethnicity (for example, Italian, German, Polish, Swedish, etc.) been an advantage to you? Have there been other situations where your ethnicity was a disadvantage? (If so, explain.)

**Next Steps:**

- Ask God to show you in what area of your life you can show empathy or seek reconciliation

 with someone who is ethnically or racially different from you. Then take action that

 demonstrates your empathy or desire for reconciliation.

- Intentionally pursue a friendship with someone who is ethnically or racially different from you.

 Listen to their life experiences to deepen your understanding of what life is like from a

 perspective other than your own.

**Life Group Prayer:** Pray, as Paul urged the Christians in Rome (**Romans 15:5-6**), that God, who gives endurance and encouragement, would give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Jesus Christ has, so that with one mind and one voice you will glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Verse to Remember:** In him [Jesus Christ] you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. **Ephesians 2:22**