



## Kingdom Colors: Antioch: The Power of a Diverse Church

Pastor Derek Sanford

June 4, 2017

### Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there a point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
2. Consider Derek's statement, "the problem of discrimination is more than just a race issue." How do you see discrimination happening around you in terms of socioeconomic status, religious beliefs, language, gender, sexual orientation, etc?
3. Now ponder this statement, "the tendency toward prejudice runs deep in all of us." (Prejudice defined as making sweeping conclusions without sufficient information.) Often our prejudices are a blind spot in our lives. Have you begun to see any within yourself?
4. Read **Galatians 3:26-29**. What does it mean that we are "all sons and daughters of God through faith in Christ Jesus"?
5. Read **Acts 11:19-30** and **13:1-3**. Derek outlined three benefits of diversity in the Church.
  - a. Unity in diversity will cause the world to take notice (**11:24**).
  - b. Diversity reminds us that our primary identity is in Christ (**11:26**).
  - c. Diversity fuels an outward focus (**11:29; 13:1-3**)
6. Remember, "diversity is only the fruit of the gospel, not the gospel itself." Apart from Christ there is no true reconciliation to God, nor among men.
7. If anyone in your group participated in the ServErie block party on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, ask them to share their experience. Consider signing up to serve as a group in the ServErie School initiative July 20-23 (find out more on Facebook: ServErie School Initiative).

Commented [SB1]:

### Next Steps: From easier to more difficult, pick a next step and as a group hold each other accountable:

1- What is one way in which you can practice sacrificing your preferences? 2- Where can you begin to seek out racially diverse environments? 3-With whom can you have a conversation that begins to go deeper about race or faith? 4- Is racial reconciliation the ministry God is calling you to? What is your next step in that calling?

### Prayer Thought:

Adoration: Praise God that He is creator of all life and that He loves each one of us

Confession: "Examine my heart and see if there is any offensive way in me" (Ps 139:24)

Thanksgiving: Thank the Lord that His Kingdom crosses all borders, sees all colors, speaks all languages,

Supplication (Say what you need): Jesus, you have a next step for me. You are challenging even me.

Where do I go? To whom do I speak? What part do I play in bridging the gap? Give me your heart...