



## Life Group Study Notes

### “Black History Month: Reconciliation”

Dr. Rice Brooks - February 18, 2017

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- Did you grow up in mostly a mono-ethnic or multi-ethnic family and social setting?
- Who was your first close friend who was of a different ethnicity than yourself?
- What “ethnic” food would you like to try that you’ve never had before?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)

Listed below are some of the key biblical texts that have served as the biblical and theological foundation for Bethel’s emphasis on building a multi-ethnic church that is called to reach a city to touch the world.

John 3:16 (ESV) *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) *“And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.”*

Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV) *For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (ESV) *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV) *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

Revelation 7:9-10 (ESV) *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, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*

Diversity is not an end in itself. It is what God himself desires. God has always intended to manifest his presence and glory to and through the great diversity of peoples and nations that he has providentially brought forth on the planet. God has sworn an oath by himself, declaring that as surely as he lives, all the earth will be filled with his glory (Numbers 14:21; Habakkuk 2:14).

God has promised the nations (ethnicities) of the earth to his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalms 2:7-8 (ESV) *I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.*

God has promised that he will bring it to pass.

Psalms 22:27 (ESV) *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.*

Psalms 86:9-10 (ESV) *All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.*

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- What is something you have learned about God through friendship with a diverse friend?
- Why does God want us to build a multi-ethnic church?
- What adjustments have you made to build a multi-ethnic church and friendships?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for the gift of diversity and how it reveals his glory.
- Ask God to teach you more about other people and himself in the process.
- Ask God to anoint you to reach diverse people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.