



# Sermon Questions

February 4, 2024 | Scripture: Gen 1:26-31, Acts 17:26-28  
(Diversity)

Pre-study: 3 things from the sermon. *Note down 3 ideas, illustrations, quotes, or points that made an impression in the sermon.*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## Core Questions

1. A diversity of ethnicities is part of God's design for human flourishing and for his glory, and there is no more diverse institution on earth than the global church. How can these concepts both encourage us in honoring diversity, and challenge us in complacency?
2. Tensions between differing ethnic and identity groups are the norm in human history, including the present moment. How does a Christian understanding of sin both help us to understand this, and give us hope for true diversity in the church?
3. No identity other than union with Christ can provide true, healthy, enduring unity. Yet denying the existence and importance of these other identities would seem to conflict with God's intention for his glory both at Babel and Pentecost. If we understand that the gospel does not erase ethnic identity, but redeems it for God's glory, how might we be freed to love our neighbor and learn more about God's glory?

## Inward Grace in Action

4. Our own sin can be tender to approach, and nowhere more than in an area as emotionally charged as being accused of racism. As with discerning our sin in other areas, we first need to ask for the Spirit's work to reveal what we are blind to. It may then help to consider our spontaneous responses to people of other ethnicities or people groups, and pray for redemption in those areas.

## Outward Grace in Action

5. Find a way to engage meaningfully with someone who does not share your background or beliefs this week, keeping in mind that they bear the image of God. Ask each other how you plan to do this, and follow up next time.

## Additional resources:

You can find more on our dedicated series Resource Page [here](#).

**Books:** Tony Evans' [Oneness Embraced](#) and John Perkins' [One Blood](#) are valuable contemporary books on the subject of ethnic diversity in the church. There are more on the series resource page and in the Book Nook at MPC.

**Podcast:** Jackie Hill Perry, Jasmine Holmes and Melissa Kruger have [a helpful conversation about race in this podcast](#). The article beneath also links to a number of other resources.

## Worship Throughout the Week

Reflect on these scriptures:

- Genesis 11:1-9
- Genesis 12: 1-3
- Isaiah 9:1-7
- Luke 4:16-30
- Acts 2:1-21
- Ephesians 2:14-18
- Revelation 21:22-27

*Serve:* Find a creative way to serve your immediate local community this week, especially those in it who are very different to you.

*Pray:* That God would glorify himself in his church by bringing ever greater unity in diversity.