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The Biblical Call to Multi-Ethnic Worship

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THE BIBLICAL CALL TO MULTI-ETHNIC WORSHIP

Josh Davis [www.proskuneo.info]

Multi-ethnic, multicultural unity and worship are incredibly uncomfortable, complicated, difficult, time-consuming and require lots of hard work. Why bother?

1. GOD _____ THE NATIONS.

Acts 17:26
Genesis 11:1-9 [Babel]
Genesis 12:1-3 [Abraham]

2. GOD DESIRES THE NATIONS TO _____.

Psalm 46:10	Psalm 86:9	Psalm 45:17
Psalm 57:9	Psalm 67:3,4	Psalm 96:3, 4
Psalm 117	Matthew 24:14	

3. GOD DESIRES THE NATIONS TO WORSHIP HIM _____.

A) We _____ bring nations together. God _____.

Acts 2:1-11 [Pentecost] Ephesians 2:14-16 [The Cross]

B) The church at _____ and the church at _____
were clearly multicultural.

Acts 6:1-7 Acts 11:19-26; 13:1-3 Mark 11:17

C) There will be multicultural, multilingual worship in _____.

Rev. 5:9, 10 Rev. 7:9, 10 Rev. 21:3 Matthew 6:9, 10

[note: diversity has a _____ in God's plan!]

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WHY NOW? [Acts 17:26, 27]

We are _____ in an increasingly multicultural _____.

Global Migration Facts:

- 1) There are over _____ non-white people in the U.S., belonging to _____ different ethnic groups and speaking more than _____ languages and dialects.
- 2) 1 in _____ people is an international migrant. If you were to put all of the international migrants in one place, it would be the world's 5th most populated country.
- 3) The U.S. is not even among the top _____ countries in percentage of migrant stock! This mingling is happening all over the world!

Make a list of all the different ethnicities who are part of your church's immediate neighborhood. (If you don't know specifics, be general... "The Asian nail salon..." "The Hispanic mini-mart" etc.)

Make a list of all the different ethnicities represented in your church body. Include the countries represented by missionaries with whom your church has a close relationship, and former missionaries who have returned from the field. (If you don't know specifics, be general... "The man who sits on the pew in the back right-hand side...")

[TO PONDER]

- * Does our music express and reflect the diversity of peoples who worship with us?
- * Does our music welcome newcomers in our midst?
- * Does our church music encourage each cultural or socio-economic segment of believers to authentic worship?

[questions taken from Roberta King's article: "The Impact of Global Christian Music in Worship"]

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HOW?

Multi-ethnic worship must be diverse. When God created the nations, he created diversity. "Diversity is rooted in the creative activity of God. But one wonders, Why? For what reason did God display such variety in His human, plant, animal, and inorganic world? It is my conviction that only in this immense and grand variety could we begin to capture the character, grace, and glory of God. Put another way, God cannot adequately be revealed in a creation of similarities." (Duane Elmer; Cross-Cultural Conflict; p23-24)

If it is not diverse, it is _____.

- 1) DANGER: The valuing of one _____ over another. (Phil. 2:1-4)
- 2) DANGER: The judgment of one culture as _____ and the other as wrong. The Bible is largely silent as to form of worship...giving lots of freedom for the gospel to take root in a culture.
- 3) DANGER: Failure to give GOD _____. God is incredibly more wonderful, more diverse, more creative than his creation!
- 4) DANGER: Failure to engage _____. (Ephesians 5:18-20)
- 5) DANGER: Failure to give an accurate picture of _____ to the _____.
(John 17: 22, 23)

* How do we incorporate global Christian music in ways that go beyond tokenism or exploitation of merely exotic sounds?

* How do we employ global Christian music in ways that are respectful and honoring to Christ and his bride, the Church universal?

[questions taken from Roberta King's article: "The Impact of Global Christian Music in Worship"]