# **Biblical Theology of Multicultural Ministry**

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# **Biblical Theology**

## Biblical Theology: Represents a crucial step in the interpretative process that reaches from exegesis toward the contemporary and practical use of the materials of theology.

## It begins with the Biblical text and its context purposely moves toward engagement with the issues of the world and its context.

# **Hermeneutic for Theologizing**

## Observation - What do I see?

## Interpretation - What does it mean?

## Implication - What does it mean to me?

### (Internal dynamics)

## Application - How do I use it? (External)

## Correlation - How does it fit?

### (Bible and Theology)

# **Implication Stage**

## What are the implications of this truth on:

### Spiritual Framework

### Mental Framework

### Physical Behavior

### Relationships with others

### Context (culture, class, etc.)

## Whereas interpretation gives us theology - implication gives us contextualization.

## The implication stage results in what we often call “incarnational truth.”

# **Theologizing Engagement and Reflection**

## “There is no true theology without engagement; theology must issue from engagement and lead to renewed engagement.” (Robert McAfee Brown)

## Action or ministry leads us to rethink our theology and renewed theological perspective leads us to revitalized ministry.

## We move from theology to ministry by imagination where creativity is mixed with vision.

## We must cultivate a spirit of theologizing in which we look to God for what He wants the world and those who live in it to look like. (Kingdom Perspective)

## Spiritual reflection is the second part of the process. “Christian ministry involves not only understanding what we do in the light of our faith, but also understanding our faith in the light of what we do.” John Patton

## Theology can never be truly objective. We are all biased by our culture, status, race, hermeneutical approach to scripture. There is a constant cycle going on in our development of theology.

## Therefore, individualized theologizing is inadequate for ministry. Theology must be done in community where the process of dialogue with others challenge and shape our perspectives. When that community includes gender, race, class, ethnicity, etc. we have a much more balanced theology.

# **Biblical Theologizing**

## What texts from the Old Testament will guide us in developing a theology for Multicultural Ministry?

## What texts from the New Testament will guide us in developing a theology for Multicultural Ministry?

## Are there themes that run through the OT and NT that affirm Multicultural Ministry?

# **Created for Community - Genesis 1-2**

## Created as one - all have their source in Adam/Eve

## Created as spiritual being - interact with God

## Created for relationships - intimacy

## Created for creativity - named animals

## Created for purpose - stewardship (cultivate, serve, dominion, rule)

## Created for community - multiply

## Created for communion - leave and cleave

# **God’s Design of the Nations**

## Gen. 10 – All the nations descend from one family

## Shem Ham Japheth

## Hebrews Canannites Greeks

## Chaldeans Egyptians Thracians

## Assyrians Philistines Scythians

## Persians Hittites

## Syrians Amorites

# **Rebellion of the Nations**

## Gen. 11 - The Scattering of the People of the World

## The same language and same words

##  Come let us make bricks - fashioning stone - creatorship.

##  Build a City - See Gen. 4:16 first city

##  Citadel to reach heaven - Same desire as Satan

##  Make a Name for ourselves - ownership, sovereignty

##  Not be scattered abroad over the face of the earth - not have to seek God .

# **Implications**

## All nations and races derived from same parents

## God’s original design was perfect community

## God calls us to stewardship (cultivate & serve)

## We are to have inclusive ministry to all peoples

## Racism, classism, sexism, is sin.

# **God’s Global Mission**

## Gen. 12 - All nations blessed in the Abrahamic Covenant

## Ruth - the inclusive nature of God’s love

## Jonah - the inclusive redemption of God grace

## Matt. 28 - Global nature of God’s message

## Acts 2 - Global nature of God’s Church

## Eph. 2 - The reconciling power of Christ’s love

## Rev. 7:9-10 - The global presence at God’s throne

# **God’s Call to the Nations**

## Acts 17:22-31 - Interpretation of Gen. 11

##  God creator of world and all things

##  Lord of heaven and earth - inhabits all space

##  He does not dwell in temples - Cannot be confined

##  He is not served by human hands

##  Gives breath and life to everything

##  He made us from one every nation of humankind

##  He has fixed a day to judge the world through Christ

# **God’s Global Mission**

## Three Covenants that Bless all the Earth

## The Abrahamic Covenant - Gen. 12 - All nations blessed through Abraham.

## The Davidic Covenant - 2 Sam. 7:11-17 - Through David comes the Messiah of Israel and the savior of the world.

## The New Covenant - Ezek. 36:21-33 - God will wash away sin and give a new heart filled with the Spirit of God.

# **God’s Missionary Plan**

## Mission and Mandate to Israel

## Exodus 19:4-6 - God’s missionary people

## Deut. 10:17-18 - God is not partial

## Isa. 42:6-8 - Israel a light to the nations

## Isa. 60:1 - The nations will come to your light

##  Jonah - Sent to bring light to Nineveh

## The lineage of Christ includes the blood of the nations. Jesus’ blood-line included the nations of the world. Therefore when he died he included the nations of the world in the shedding of His blood. Salvation was for every nation, tribe and tongue. Matt. 1:1-17

# **Jesus’ Global Outreach**

## Jesus’ inclusive ministry

###  Samaritan Woman - Jn. 4

###  Greeks – John 12:20

###  Canaanite woman - Matt. 15:21-28

###  Syrophonecian Woman - Mark 7:24-30

###  The Roman Centurion - Luke 7:2-10

## John 12:23 *If I be lifted up I will draw all everyone to me*

## The Good Shepherd - John 10: 16

## *Other sheep I have that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and the shall hear My voice; and the shall become one flock with one shepherd*.

# **God’s Global Community**

## Acts 2 is Babel Revisited

##  Birth of the New Community - the church

##  Holy Spirit the common denominator

##  Nations all heard in their own language

##  God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ

##  Regeneration brings you into the New Community

##  Acts 1:8 Global strategy for the New Community

## Acts 6

## The Hellenistic Jews and the Native Jews - They are to be ministered to equally and have representation in the body of Christ. Unity brings a new wave of evangelism. The unity of the brethren unleashes the work of the Holy Spirit in drawing people to Christ.

## Acts 8

## Philip – Hellenistic Jew

## Ethnic Barriers

## Religious Barriers

## Geographic Barriers

## Spiritual Barriers

## Political Barriers

## Racial Barriers

## Acts 10

## Peter’s vision on the rooftop in Joppa demonstrates the inclusiveness of Christ. This leads to the salvation of Cornelius and his household. The Jew/Gentile barrier had been broken down and the Gentile was grafted into the body of Christ.

## Acts 15

## The debate over circumcision resolves the issue of inclusiveness of the Gentiles into the body of Christ. All have equal standing and neither has to convert to the others culture to be accepted in the body of Christ.

## Eph. 2&3

## Jesus broke down the middle was of partition and created a unique fellowship of believers.

### Fellow Citizens

### Fellow Heirs

### Fellow Members

### Fellow Partakers

## Philemon

## The story of Onesimus is a visual reminder of the process and the power of reconciliation

### Useless to useful

### Slave to beloved brother

### Debtor to freedman

## James 2:-18

## Early church had to struggle with classism. The rich had privilege and power and the poor were powerless. But by the grace of Christ all are on an equal playing field and should have equal access to the benefits of the church and the Christian life.

## 1 Peter 1:1-2

## Peter is writing to the aliens and strangers scattered in Pontus, Galatia, Asian, Bithynia who are chosen. This demonstrates the sovereign power of God’ grace that has worked in every culture to draw men and women to Himself.

## Revelation 1-3

## The seven churches of Revelation are all in Turkey not in Palestine. They were the hub of evangelism and church planting for both the Eastern and Western world. They included men and women from every culture because they were at the crossroads of culture geographically and spiritually.

## Revelation 5:9, 7:9

## The future kingdom will be made up of men and women from every nation, tribe and tongue. They will gather in oneness at the throne of God and exalt Him forever.

# **God’s Global Community**

## What are the implications for the church today in light of Biblical Framework we have discovered?

## What does it mean to pray the Lord’s prayer in light of the multicultural make up of the Kingdom.

## Does it make a difference if we focus on Kingdom rather than Church?

## Does it make a difference if we focus on Reconciliation rather than becoming a Multicultural Church?