

RACE: 4 reasons why I am committed to a racially reconciling church

I serve in a city scarred by its racial history. Studying Scripture, I am convinced that a racially reconciling church pleases God. Here are four of the many important lessons that make me deeply committed to this kind of church.

A racially reconciling church displays the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham. God handcrafted the first human being in His image, revealing that all humanity has a common ancestry. Then God sought out Abram, calling him to a covenant through which a Savior would bless all peoples. Through God's work of creation and covenant with Abraham, obviously—God's redemptive work is a multiethnic movement.

A racially reconciling church is essential for reaching the next generation. There is a disconnect for people in our culture when they see diversity in every other sphere of their lives, yet many churches remain monoethnic. By 2030, the majority of the working class will be nonwhite, and by 2060, 57% of the population will be nonwhite. In other words, the next generation will be multiethnic. Failure to adjust methodology for the changing mission field may mean we miss reaching the next generation.

A racially reconciling church displays the power of the gospel. Jesus prayed for the unity of the Church (John 17). Many issues are polarizing for people today. Often, this is because they live in "echo chambers." Churches that seek diversity will find conflict. Yet, the power of the gospel is on display whenever the Church functions as God's reconciling agency by helping to develop deep empathy and understanding.

A racially reconciling church displays a preview of heaven. Fast forward to the end of history, in Revelation 7:9, where every tribe, tongue, and nation are gathered together, worshiping Jesus as one family while maintaining their distinctions of color, culture, and language. The population of heaven is comprised of a redeemed people from all classes, races, and people groups worshiping one risen King.

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RACIAL RECONCILIATION SUNDAY



**After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude
from every nation, tribe, people, and language,
which no one could number, standing before the throne
and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes
with palm branches in their hands.**

REVELATION 7:9 (CSB)

SAPPONY BAPTIST CHURCH

February 23, 2025

Rev. Michael Dickey, Pastor

www.sapponybaptist1773.org

Invocation and Welcome

Hymn No. 413 "Faith Is the Victory"

Hymn No. 426 "Victory in Jesus"

Missionary Prayer Calendar

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn No. 514 "When We All Get to Heaven"

Doxology

Scripture 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Message Rev. Dickey

"The Man of Heaven"

Hymn No. 290 "I Am Thine, O Lord"

Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be in prayer for our sick and shut-ins as they are not able to be with us.

Deacons will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 25th at 7pm at the Parsonage.

Bible Study will be held on Wed. at 3pm (early group) and 7pm (later group and students) at the parsonage. We look forward to seeing you there.

We have an app for your smartphone. In the app store, find "Our Church-By ChurchDev.com." When you open it, search for Sappony Baptist Church. There you will have access to our Sermons, daily devotions, and other content.

If you have not been receiving text message updates (including prayer requests) from the church, please text "JOIN" to 804-430-6282 in order to be added to the list. Also, please save that number as a contact in your phone to ensure that our messages don't go to your spam folder.

PRE-READ FOR NEXT WEEK: Luke 9:28-36