

- I. Mankind was created multi-ethnic by God; therefore, we are the same, different and unique all at the same time. (Genesis 1:26-28, Acts 17:24-26, Genesis 3:20, Psalm 139:13-16)**
 - A. God has from the beginning designed mankind to be multi-ethnic.
 - B. Therefore, your ethnicity was preordained before you were born.
 - C. You are not a mistake; you were meant to be who you are in your ethnicity.
 - D. Scripture affirms that we are all created in the image of God with the implication that we are all equal to one another, diverse, as well as unique— just like the Trinity.

- II. There should be an appreciation and embracing of the ethnicity from which you were born since it was ordained by God. This appreciation and embracing of your ethnicity should be connected to preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to your ethnicity. This is to be done knowing the connection to Jesus Christ is more valuable than the appreciation and embracing of your ethnicity. (Acts 17:26-27, Romans 9:1-5, 10:1-4)**
 - A. There is value and importance in being a part of the ethnic group from which you were born through God’s providence and you should not ignore it but embrace it. But remember: the ultimate goal of your existence is not about ignoring or embracing your ethnic group, but to seek God as you embrace being a part of your ethnic group.
 - B. You should appreciate and embrace the rich heritage, traditions and blessings God has allowed you to experience by being a part of the ethnicity from which you were born. But remember: the ultimate goal of your existence is not about appreciating and embracing the rich heritage, traditions and blessings God has allowed you to experience by being a part of the ethnicity from which you were born, but to seek God as you do these things.
 - C. You must embrace the fact that your connection to Jesus Christ is more important than your connection to your ethnic group. You were not created to be consumed with your ethnicity, but to seek God.
 - D. Therefore, you should neither worship nor devalue your ethnicity but appreciate it and value it while embracing the God of your ethnicity and your spiritual identity in Jesus Christ. You must do what Paul did with his ethnic group, promoting and demonstrating the gospel of Jesus Christ accordingly.

III. Do not nullify the grace of God and disassociate from other people groups based upon the false perception that your ethnicity is better than that of other people groups, due to cultural ideologies that are in contradiction to the gospel of Jesus Christ, or due to the fear of man within your own people group. Appreciate the rich heritage of other people groups and appreciate your own heritage without seeking to make your ethnicity seem better than their ethnicity or something that they should aspire to assimilate to. Do not seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ according to your cultural ideologies that are in contradiction to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Guide people into being disciples of the Biblical Jesus and His Christianity. (Galatians 2:11-21)

- A. You must not allow naysayers in your ethnicity to determine when or how you relate to other ethnicities.
- B. You must not force your cultural preferences on other ethnicities as a means to guide them into Christianity.
- C. You must not force your cultural preferences on other ethnicities as a means to develop them in their Christianity.
- D. You must not allow your cultural preferences to lead you into hypocrisy with other people groups and hinder the promotion of the gospel of Jesus of Christ.

IV. Since God did not create one ethnicity greater than or less than another, do not embrace the lie that one people group is greater than or less than another. Your people group is not less than or greater than all other people groups in creation. All have sinned and can be redeemed by faith or will be condemned by a lack of faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:9, Romans 5:12-19, Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23, John 3:16 Acts 15:8-9)

- A. Since God is no respecter of persons and is the Creator of all persons, the condition of your soul is a priority above the color of your skin/ethnicity; for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.
- B. Sin is not tied to your ethnicity, sin is tied to the imputed sin of Adam, your inherited sin at birth and your heart/sin choices.
- C. Therefore, no one ethnicity is less than or greater than another; all are sinners before God according to their position and condition of sin, not their ethnicity.
- D. Salvation is not tied to your ethnicity but to your faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. God's blessing of salvation is for all without distinction. Therefore, do not let preoccupation with ethnicity lead you away from salvation unto a genuine relationship with God, which should result in a genuine love for all people groups.

“Ethnicity has beauty only as it derives from understanding that we are in God’s image.”¹

A focus on ethnicity apart from God’s revelation will always end up crashing on the rocks of meaninglessness and chaos. Our ethnicity is a gift, not a god. It is not to be worshipped but to lead us to worship and appreciate God who made us in His image. Any attempt to centralize life around our ethnicity is an attempt to overthrow God who created us in His image for His glory, not our glory.

¹ Carl F. Ellis Jr., *Free at Last? (The IVP Signature Collection)* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press), 154. Kindle Edition.