



ways pastors can teach

their congregation
to appreciate
biblical diversity

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

(Rev. 7:9-10, ESV)

In this text, Paul teaches us that God is not concerned about a person's nationality; he wants us to seek him through Jesus Christ and be saved. We are all made from one man, Adam, and we all have the same human father. There are no races, only the human race with God.

If you want a sneak preview of how God's divine drama unfolds at the end of human history, take a stroll through the Book of Revelation. When Jesus Christ returns and establishes his kingdom, a great multitude of people will come from every nation, tribe and language. They will all come together to worship the King of kings and Lord of lords.

God loves diversity. He calls and saves people from every tongue and every nation. Therefore, God's people will be like a beautiful tapestry of different peoples from around the world that will worship before his great throne.

But biblical diversity is not reserved for when all get to heaven. We must teach it, preach it and pursue it *now*.

Possess the courage to correct cultural mistakes regarding the Bible and race.

Too often, Hollywood films and literature portray biblical personalities as Caucasians. These portrayals reinforce the notion that the Caucasian persuasion is the norm and anything else is not normal. This notion is especially dangerous when it comes to spiritual matters, whereby one's ethnic identity can be mistakenly associated with God's favor and grace.

Pastors can teach their congregation that these portrayals and illustrations are not accurate representations of the people in the Middle East or North Africa, where darker features and complexions are the norm. Addressing these mistakes can provide opportunities for further diversity dialogue.





