

RACIAL HARMONY

A Policy Statement of Autumn Ridge Church

Rochester, MN

Scripture teaches that the church is comprised of believers from every race, language, socio-economics status, and people group. All are equally children of God and equal in Christ:

*“All the nations you have made will come and worship before you,
O Lord; they will bring glory to your name”. Psalm 86:9*

*“Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.”
Colossians 3:9-14*

*“They sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,
because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every
tribe and language and people and nation” . Revelation 5:9*

We believe that all races are created in the image of God and that in Christ we all stand equal before God. We strive to live out our church mission of loving God and serving others by seeking to follow God's leading across racial, demographic and cultural boundaries both inside and outside the church.

We believe that part of the design of God in redemptive history is to display his glory in the racial and cultural variety of his church and that every person and culture has something to contribute to our understanding of the character of God and his workings in redemptive history. The fact that we are called “the body of Christ” affirms our need to be nourished, enriched and edified by other cultural expressions.

We believe that the church is to be a light, witness and leader in the world on the issue of race relations by demonstrating in her unity the essence of true unity in Christ. We desire to be a church that reflects the power of the gospel in breaking down all barriers of race and culture that prevent fellowship by rejecting explicit or implicit belief or practice that prejudicially values one race over other races. This requires conscious individual and corporate action to take concrete steps to promote racial reconciliation and harmony.

*Board of Elders
October 2006*

For Further Study

The following books further our understanding on racial reconciliation. They are available at Christos Bookcenter in the lobby.

Prejudice and the People of God by A. Charles Ware

Breaking Down Walls by Raleigh Washington and Glen Kehrein

Under God by Toby Mac and Michael Tait