



**Reaching Across the Cultural Divide**  
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**July 14/15, 2018**

In a world where diversity is embraced, celebrated and sold by society, we as believers must remember that the goal of God's Kingdom is much more than diversity but rather oneness in the context of the new family of God. Unfortunately, we have been 'socialized' or 'conditioned' to think and behave in ways which work against God's goal. God is inviting us to take profound, life-changing risks...and in doing so, be able to move out of our cultural bubbles, reach across the cultural divide, and begin to experience the oneness in His new family!

**The New Family of God**

- A. Abraham (Gen 12) - New kind of Family
- B. Revelation 7:9-10 tells us about this new family
- C. The church should be a SNEAK PREVIEW of what the future is going to look like
  - a) Not to just to inform us about the future but to form us in the present.
- D. *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.* Revelation 7:9 (NIV)

- a) This picture speaks against two things
  - i. Colour blindness
  - ii. Surface-level diversity

PROBLEM: We have been INFECTED by some sort of -ISM that attempts against the formation of this new family

What does it mean to be part of this type of family? (RISK)

- How do we move beyond colour blindness and superficial diversity?
- How can we reach across the cultural divide?

**3 'RISK' areas**

- A. Hard work of INCARNATIONAL LISTENING as the foundation of life together
  - a) Like Jesus
    - i) We leave our World
    - ii) We enter into the world of someone else
    - iii) We allow ourselves to be formed by that new world
- B. Deep work of acknowledging our IMPLICIT BIASES
  - a) We all have them
    - i) We were hurt
    - ii) Family and cultural influence
    - iii) Ignorance
  - b) Racism not a colour issue but a sin issue
- C. Willingness to LOVE one another as we have been loved
  - a) Jesus and the Good Samaritan story