



Becoming a Multiethnic Church

Exploring the Call to Lead All Peoples into a New Day in Jesus

DN. EDUARDO DAVILA

Ephesians 2, Isaiah 60, Revelation 7

I. The Gospel is for Everyone

i. What is the Gospel?

ii. Ephesians 2

iii. Revelation 7



II. Ethnicity, Culture, and Race

i. The Terms

- a. **Race:** “Race is the social classification of humans into categories based on a broad range of physical characteristics such as skin color, facial features, and hair texture. Racial categorization is not based on science, but on arbitrary distinctions which have shifted over time.” Race is a social construct, that is not based on biology, but that has powerful real world effects.
- b. **Culture:** “Shared, socially learned knowledge and patterns of behavior that help you navigate the society you live in and provide guidelines for your interactions with others”. Culture is the “software of the mind.” There are 4 levels of culture: beliefs, behaviors, ideas, symbols.
- c. **Ethnicity:** “Ethnicity is a social classification of humans based on their common culture, heritage, nationality, religion, language, and/or other similar categories. The term is derived from the Greek word “ethnos,” which in the Bible is often translated “tribe” or “people group. “

ii. Isaiah 60

III. 10 Reasons Why We’re Uncomfortable



Final Draft

10 REASONS WHY CITY OF LIGHT SINGS, PRAYS, READS SCRIPTURE, AND PREACHES IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND OTHER LANGUAGES

1. We join the global church who are worshipping in many languages and cultures—including millions worshipping in Spanish throughout North, Central, and South America—so that while we worship, we join brothers and sisters in the family of God.
2. We move toward the kingdom reality of the church in heaven worshipping around the throne, unified but not uniform, a beautiful gathering of every tribe and tongue and nation.
3. We remember that all cultures have gifts of beauty to bring to the Lord in worship and that we can learn from and be shaped by one another's culture of worship.
4. We connect to our neighbors and families in Aurora who speak many languages, especially English and Spanish, who we long to invite into the household of God.
5. We welcome guests from every culture and let them know that the good of their culture is seen, valued, and celebrated.
6. We give everyone at City of Light the opportunity to grow closer together in solidarity, and to know one another better by worshipping in someone else's heart language and culture.
7. We provide our Spanish-speaking family members and visitors the opportunity to connect in their heart language. Engaging in a foreign language takes more energy, so this gives a break from that translation work.
8. We offer our English-speaking family members the opportunity to sacrificially surrender their preferred ways of engaging in worship to lovingly make space for their brothers and sisters of a different culture to worship in their own heart language. Engaging in a foreign language also allows them to step into what it is like to worship from the perspective of a Spanish speaker.
9. We engage the opportunity—in both word and action—to renounce and repent of a specific sin that considers one culture superior to another. In the United States of America, this has most often been a belief or practice that western European or white culture is superior to other cultures (commonly called white supremacy).
10. We embody our prophetic Isaiah 60 mission to become a family of many peoples finding a new day in Jesus.



First Draft

10 REASONS WHY CITY OF LIGHT SINGS, PRAYS, READS SCRIPTURE, AND SOMETIMES PREACHES IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES

1. It keeps us connected to the global church who are worshipping in many languages, including millions worshipping in Spanish throughout North and South America, so that while we worship, we remember these brothers and sisters in the family of God.
2. It keeps us connected to our neighborhood in Aurora that is 50% people from Spanish speaking cultures, so that while we sing, we remember those around us who know the Lord or who need the Lord.
3. It welcomes guests from spanish language cultures and lets them know that they are welcome here.
4. To help those worshipping and engaging in a second language have a break and be able to understand more easily.
5. It affirms the goodness and beauty of multiple cultures for the worship of God, that white or english speaking culture is not superior, that all cultures have beauty and goodness.
6. It allows all of us in our City of Light family to have moments where we worship in our own heart language and culture.
7. It allows all of us in our City of Light family to have moments where we worship in someone else's heart language and culture, as an act of love, sometimes as loving sacrifice to serve one another, and always as a way to grow closer together as a family by getting to experience and embrace each other's culture and language.
8. Spanish and English together are helping us learn how to incorporate more cultures and languages.
9. It keeps us connected to what the Lord is calling us to be as a church, a home for many peoples from many places to receive and reflect the light of Jesus.
10. It keeps us moving toward the picture of the church in heaven worshipping around the throne, unified but not uniform, a beautiful gathering of every tribe and tongue and nation.