

Session 05

The Theology of a Stranger – The Example of the Multicultural Congregation



Session Overview

1. The Theology of a Stranger – Introduction
2. The Theology of a Stranger – Solomon's prayer
3. The Theology of a Stranger – Jesus was an Immigrant
4. The Theology of a Stranger – Christians as Strangers in the World
5. **The Theology of a Stranger – The Example of the Multicultural Congregation**

Session Summary.

In this session, Dr. Beck will help us consider how people, from diverse cultures, skin colors, education and national backgrounds put together, are essentially a picture of the new humanity in its perfected state in heaven, and how we can work towards that goal in our community.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to be a multicultural church community?

2. How does Dr. Beck define the local church in reference to Ephesians 2:12-22?

3. What does your local church look like? Do you feel your local church reflects the Kingdom of Heaven? What are some areas your church can grow in its reflection of the Kingdom?

4. When we become citizens in the Kingdom of God, regardless of where we come from or what our culture is, we are all equal. Have you experienced a time when you were looked down on by other believers because of your culture? Have you seen Christian's looking down on other Christian's because of their culture, or because they did things differently?

5. What can we do to make our own church communities a place that people of all cultures are welcome, regardless of their culture of origin, background, status, education level, or socioeconomic backgrounds?

6. Thinking of your own culture, what are some beliefs, practices, values, or stigmas that you have about people from different cultural backgrounds, education levels, or economic status? What can we do as believers to make sure that our cultural stigmas and prejudices do not influence our behaviors as we function as a church community and represent Christ to the world?

7. What does Paul mean in Ephesians 2: 21-22 that Jesus is the cornerstone? Why is it especially important to remember that Christ is the cornerstone when we start, or are in multicultural church communities?

8. What is the importance of Pentecost?

9. Tension is a normal when people of different cultures gather together. How do we solve the problems that arise in our church communities, but not the tension?

10. What is your biggest takeaway from this course? How will this course impact you as you move forward in your ministry, church community, and life as a follower of Christ?
