

ALL NATIONS SUNDAY

DEVOTIONAL | NOVEMBER 8, 2020

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: Do you enjoy the cultural diversity among the people who attend Grace Fellowship “A Church For All Nations”? Why or why not?

Key Passage: “*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*” (Proverbs 11:25)

1. Bless others, and God will make sure that you are blessed.

Proverbs 11:25 (above) teaches that the person who is generous to others will experience generosity from God; the one who water others (ministers to the needs of others) will himself be watered (have his own needs met by God).

Discuss: Describe a time when you were blessed by being a blessing to someone else.

Discuss: How could Proverbs 11:25 apply to Grace Fellowship as a “Church for all Nations”?

2. You are God’s favorite!

Of all of God’s wonderful creations, humans are His greatest and most precious treasure! Genesis tells us that until God created human beings, He declared everything “good.” But when God made man in His own image, He declared that His special creation, mankind, was “*very good*” (Genesis 1:31). When you study the creation account closely, you notice that it seems like God created things almost from a distance – with an impassive command of “*Let there be light...Let there be expanse between waters...Let there be creatures in the sea and on land, etc....and it was so.*” (Gen.1:3-25) But when God created people, there is a sense of intimacy. Humans were created not so much by a distant command but through a warm conversation among the Trinity: “*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image...*” (Genesis 1:26-27)

Unlike the animals, we humans have rational faculties that give us the ability to reason, moral faculties that give us the ability to recognize right from wrong and to make moral choices, and social faculties that give us the ability to love others and to be loved in a personal way. But most importantly, we have spiritual faculties that give us the ability to know, fellowship with, and worship God. God invites us as human beings to an intimate, personal, eternal relationship with Him: “*This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent*” (Jn.17:3). This incredible privilege is available only to human beings.

Discuss: How does it make you feel to know that God considers you to be His crowning creation achievement—His most precious treasure?

Discuss: How does the fact that we can have a relationship with God separate Christianity from other religions?

3. All people matter to God, so all people matter to us at Grace Fellowship: “A Church for All Nations.”

At Grace Fellowship, we are intentional about helping all people to experience and feel God’s love. Because all human beings have been created in God’s image and are valuable to Him, Christ’s compassion compels us to open our doors and hearts and welcome men, women, boys, and girls of all races, cultures, and nationalities. Here’s why we call Grace Fellowship “A Church for All Nations”: All people matter to God, so all people matter to us. God is a global God, and He cares about the whole world. “*For God so loved the world...*” (Jn.3:16)

Have you noticed that when people are devalued, it seems like everything in the world goes wrong: human rights are diminished, the needy are regarded as nuisances, the elderly are viewed as a burden, discrimination rages against minorities, women and children are abused, labor is exploited, etc. But when people are valued because they were made in God’s divine image, everything seems to change: human rights are amplified, the needy are regarded, the elderly are esteemed, minorities are respected, and women and children are appreciated, and labor is dignified. At Grace Fellowship, people matter.

Discuss: John Bunyan said, “You have not lived successfully until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.” Do you think this is an accurate reflection of Christianity’s view of the value of people and of generosity? Why or why not?

Discuss: It has been said, “If you want happiness for an hour—take a nap. If you want happiness for a day—go fishing. If you want happiness for a month—get married. If you want happiness for a year—inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime—help others.” What is it about helping others that is so personally rewarding?

4. The Christian church is the only human community in which Christ has destroyed all cultural and racial barriers.

Galatians 3:28 says, “*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*” Jesus is an all-nations Savior, and Christianity is an all-nations faith. A church that doesn’t love all people regardless of race, culture, or nationality is a church no longer. The more cross-cultural a church family is, the better that church pictures and declares Christ’s reconciling, unifying power. The world should be able to look at the church and say, “This is what peace between nations, races, and culture looks like.”

Discuss: In what ways are you personally working toward removing fences that could hinder the reconciling work of Christ among people of all nations?

Resources:

“What is the Origin of the Different Races?” article at www.gotquestions.org

IMB.org (International Missions Board)

Let the Nations Be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Missions by John Piper