



TIME OF GRACE®

Grace_{notes}

guides for personal Bible study

Culture Collision: Race Matters

Romans 15:1-9: ¹“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: ‘The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.’ ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: ‘Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.’”

Points to Ponder

1. Why is it that the devil uses race as a way to divide people?
2. Who created the diversity in our lives? Why do you think he did that?
3. Read Romans 15:5. In what ways can you build up your neighbors?
4. Read Romans 15:6,7. Though we are born different from one another, what do these verses tell us we are called by God to do? Why?

5. Does Jesus' love for you and all people motivate you to show that same love to others, to celebrate your differences, to use those differences to glorify God? Pray to God for this attitude of unity.

God designed each and every one of us to be different. And he created diversity so we can enjoy it—enjoy the varied cultures and gifts that different people bring to our lives. No matter the color, we are all redeemed children of God and we are called to love each other, celebrate our differences, and use those differences to glorify God and share the message of his love with others.

What else does God say?

Colossians 1:16,17: For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Revelation 7:9,10: 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. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."