

## Cross Cultural Communication in a Diverse Church Carry One Another's Burdens

**Need:** Our fellowship of churches has become more multicultural, but there are influences from our dominant culture, prompted and promoted by Satan, that are at work within the fellowship, attempting to divide us. This series of discussions will help our leaders and members become more conscious of how these forces attempt to divide us.

**Goal:** The goal of this series of discussions is to enable leadership and members to see through dominant cultural perspectives that perpetuate unhealthy racial attitudes and actions and to communicate cross-culturally in open, authentic dialogue that promotes complete unity in the faith across racial, ethnic and cultural barriers.

**Method:** This goal will be accomplished by conducting a limited number of discussions with a small group in a safe, trusting environment that promotes openness on racial issues, leading to authentic dialogue, in the hopes that leaders and members will then internalize these discussions and engage on a personal quest to grow and transform their lives and ministry, embracing deep, personal cross-cultural relationships where all brothers and sisters feel safe and truly equal. The topics of these discussions will be:

- **Discussion 1: God Shows No Favoritism** *(An introduction to the course & discussion of overt & subtle favoritism)*
- **Discussion 2: I Was Blind** *(The "why" of it all, explained through a personal journey of transformation)*
- **Discussion 3: Come Let Us Reason Together** *(The Context, Connotation, Communication aspects of racial dialogue)*
- **Discussion 4: Quick to Listen, Slow to Speak** *(An honest, real discussion about the minority experience in America and the feelings engendered by the struggle).*
- **Discussion 5: Slow to Become Angry** *(An honest, real discussion about the existence of white culture and how it has dealt with the minority experience)*
- **Discussion 6: Speak the Truth to One Another in Love** *(how to communicate cross-culturally with each other)*
- **Discussion 7: Carry One Another's Burdens** *(a plan for personal, spiritual "affirmative" action and intentional change)*

All participants will receive a list of books they can read, videos and movies they can view, as well as supporting documentation distributed after each discussion. Participants are expected to engage in their own homework during the month to grow in their personal understanding. Homework will include keeping a journal for recording their thoughts and feelings about what they're learning. There will be an opportunity at each session after the first for them to share what they're learning and how they're changing. Participants should also begin building deeper diverse relationships, sharing with brothers and sisters of diverse race, ethnicity and culture from them what they're learning and how they're growing.