

# Feb 1, 2026

<p><b>1 Group</b></p>	<p>Is Racial Unity optional or essential to following Jesus?</p> <p><b>2</b></p>	<p>Stop 1: Jesus corrects his disciples.</p> <p><b>3</b></p>
<p>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5</p> <p><b>4</b></p>	<p>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to <b>restore the kingdom to Israel?</b>" Acts 1:6</p> <p><b>5</b></p>	<p>He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." Acts 1:7</p> <p><b>6</b></p>
<p>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in <b>Jerusalem</b>, and in all <b>Judea and Samaria</b>, and to the <b>ends of the earth.</b>" Acts 1:8</p> <p><b>7</b></p>	<p>Stop 2: The Holy Spirit includes all races and ethnicities.</p> <p><b>8</b></p>	<p>When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Acts 2:1-2</p> <p><b>9</b></p>
<p>They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to <b>speak in other tongues</b> as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:3-4</p> <p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one <b>heard their own language</b> being spoken. Acts 2:5-6</p> <p><b>11</b></p>	<p>Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking <b>Galileans?</b> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our <b>native language?</b>" Acts 2:7-8</p> <p><b>12</b></p>
<p> arthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs —we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Acts 2:9-11</p> <p><b>13</b></p>	<p>Stop 3: The early church empowers the minority group.</p> <p><b>14</b></p>	<p>In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the <b>Hellenistic Jews</b> among them complained against the <b>Hebraic Jews</b> because their <b>widows were being overlooked</b> in the daily distribution of food. Acts 6:1</p> <p><b>15</b></p>

So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.

Acts 6:2

16

Brothers and sisters, choose **seven men from among you** who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."

Acts 6:3-4

17

This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose **Stephen**, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

Acts 6:5

18

Stop 4: Disciples affirm the Gospel is for all races.

19

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout **Judea and Samaria**.

Acts 8:1

20

Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

Acts 8:4-5

21

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, **they prayed for the new believers** there that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-15

22

Stop 5: Peter makes racial unity personal.

23

He (Peter) said to them: "You are well aware that **it is against our law** for a **Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile**. But God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.

Acts 10:28

25

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show **favoritism** but accepts from **every nation (ethnos)** the one who fears him and does what is right.

Acts 10:34-35

26

Stop 6: Racial Unity causes division.

27

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the **Gentiles** also had received the word of God.

Acts 11:1

28

So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers **criticized him** and said, "You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them."

Acts 11:2-3

29

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, **even to Gentiles** God has granted repentance that leads to life."

Acts 11:18

30

Now those **who had been scattered** by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word **only among Jews**.  
Acts 11:19

31

Some of them, however, men from **Cyprus and Cyrene**, went to Antioch and began to **speak to Greeks also**, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus.  
Acts 11:20

32

Stop 7: The full inclusion of all races and ethnicities.

33

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "**Unless you are circumcised**, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."  
Acts 15:1

34

It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the **Gentiles** who are turning to God.  
Acts 15:19

35

Is Racial Unity optional or essential to following Jesus?

36

Racial unity is essential to following Jesus.

37

Our heart in Racial Unity, is that we "not make it difficult for the \_\_\_\_ who are turning to God".

38

Whatever your race is, how can you "not make it difficult" for those who are different from you?

39

# Jan 18, 2026



THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION

1 Group Unity\_Text B...



Because we understand our fearful responsibility to the Lord, we work hard to persuade others. God knows we are sincere, and I hope you know this, too.

2 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



Are we commending ourselves to you again? No, we are giving you a reason to be proud of us, so you can answer those who brag about having a spectacular ministry rather than having a sincere heart.

3 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit.

4 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.

5 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

6 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now.

7 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

8 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.

9 Unity\_Text BoxKey (...)



For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.

10 Unity\_Text BoxKey...



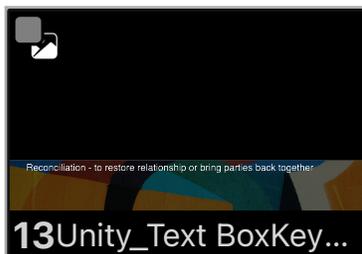
So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"

11 Unity\_Text BoxKey...



For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

12 Unity\_Text BoxKey...



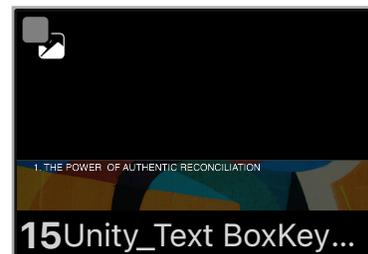
Reconciliation - to restore relationship or bring parties back together

13 Unity\_Text BoxKey...



Ambassador - an accredited diplomat sent by a country as its official representative to a foreign country

14 Unity\_Text BoxKey...



1. THE POWER OF AUTHENTIC RECONCILIATION

15 Unity\_Text BoxKey...



2. THE PRODUCT OF AUTHENTIC RECONCILIATION

**16**Unity\_Text BoxKey...



3. THE PURPOSE OF AUTHENTIC RECONCILIATION

**17**Unity\_Text BoxKey...



CHARACTERISTICS OF AMBASSADORS

**18**Unity\_Text BoxKey...



WE HAVE A DIFFERENT SOURCE  
WE HAVE DIFFERENT VALUES  
WE HAVE A DIFFERENT ORIGIN  
WE HAVE A DIFFERENT AGENDA

**19**Unity\_Text BoxKey...

# Jan 11, 2026

PIC

1 Group BP\_Info Slid...

2 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

3 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

What do we mean by Racial Unity?

We believe racial unity is made possible through Jesus Christ, and we define racial unity as multiple ethnicities bound together, not by uniformity, but by a singleness of purpose: to love God and to love others.

4 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Racial Unity is people of different races coming together in unity to love God and love others.

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1. To teach a **biblical perspective** on racial unity, reconciliation, and justice

6 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

2. To eliminate any **unintentional barriers** to people of color becoming fully engaged in our church

7 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

3. To encourage **church participation in biblically sound** community efforts to promote racial unity and justice

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9 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

John 17:20

10 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

that all of them **may be one**, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:21

11 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

John 17:22

12 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to **complete unity**. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:23

13 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **your kingdom come**, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.'

Matthew 6:9

14 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every **tribe and language and people and nation**.

Revelation 5:9

15 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Where did we get our priority on Racial Unity?

16 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

The first thing we did was pray.

17 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

The first thing we did was pray.  
The second thing we did was listen.

18 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

There is not just one 'black experience' in America.

19 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Why black and white?

20 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Rhythm of repentance:  
the practice of always being open to your need to repent.

22 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

I was not careful.  
I was not clear.  
I was not helpful.

23 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

"We're not going to have racial healing in our country until we repent of the racism that lives in all of us."

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PIC

25 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Do you ever prejudge someone based on their race?

27 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

This is why the Gospel always precedes Racial Unity.

28 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

The Gospel says that when I come as I am (not as I wish I was) I can receive grace and mercy.

29 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Psalm 32:3-4

30 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Then I **acknowledged my sin** to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will **confess** my transgressions to the LORD." And you **forgave the guilt** of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

31 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

32 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

33 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

We kept praying. We kept listening.

Ten years into our initiative, we see the fruit of this effort. Perhaps most obviously, we are a more diverse church, and, importantly, we see people from a variety of races and ethnicities engaged throughout our ministry and at the highest level of leadership.

34 BP\_Info Slide.jpg



35 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to **complete unity**. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:22

36 BP\_Info Slide.jpg

Racial Unity at GBC: Will you pray?  
Will you listen?

37 BP\_Info Slide.jpg