

**THE
CHURCH
THAT
LOOKS
LIKE
HEAVEN**

Men of God serve the Lord Jesus by serving His Church. These same men come in all colors, languages, and backgrounds! The following presentation was made by Church of God Bishop Leon Collins at the 2022 Ohio Ministers Meeting:

THE CHURCH THAT LOOKS LIKE HEAVEN

I. The Church that is Loved by Christ

Ephesians 5:25-27 (KJV)

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it: That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

- A. Loved by Christ who give Himself for it
- B. Sanctified and cleansed by the Word
- C. Presented as a glorious Church
 - 1. Having no spot or wrinkle
 - 2. Holy and without blemish

II. The Church that is Redeemed by Christ

Revelation 5:9 (KJV)

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and has redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation:

- A. He died for the church
- B. Has redeemed us to God by His Blood
- C. Out of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation – multicultural, multi-ethnic groups/races, and multi-color

III. The Church to Whom the Gospel is Preached

Revelation 14:6 (KJV)

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.

- A. The everlasting Gospel
- B. To preach unto them that dwell on the earth
- C. To every nation, kindred, tongue, and people – multicultural, multi-ethnic group/races, and multi-color

IV. The Church that is Open to All

To every nation, kindred, tongue, and people – multicultural, multi-ethnic group/races, and multi-color

V. OBSERVATION 1: Color Blindness or Color Inclusion

Does God intend for the Church to be Color Blind or is Color Inclusive? I submit God's intent is Color Inclusion, because He is the God of Color, not by color or culture, but by creation.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

- A. God is the creator of color
- B. God created all colors
- C. God is color conscious/aware – able to name and distinguish the difference between colors and shades of color
- D. God is color coordinated – mix and match and assign color
- E. God is color inclusive in beautifying His creation
 - 1. Different and diverse types
 - 2. Different and diverse features
 - 3. Different and diverse color

VI. OBSERVATION 2: The Church that Looks Like Heaven

- A. Main focus is Jesus – JESUS – last 2 letters spell “US”
 - 1. Can't spell His name without including “US”
 - 2. The church cannot reflect Heaven without including all of “US.”
- B. Primary Purpose – to experience Grace
 - 1. Grace and truth came by Jesus – John 1:17
 - 2. Saved by Grace – Ephesians 2:8,9
 - 3. Taught by Grace – Titus 2:11, 12
 - 4. Grow in Grace – II Peter 3:18
 - 5. GRACE – Can't spell Grace without including “RACE”
 - 6. GRACE – **God Reaching All Cultures/Colors Everywhere**

C. Church on Mission

Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Having JESUS and GRACE is not the totality of the “Church” that Looks Like Heaven, but these two factors are a Good Place to Start.