



GOD'S GRAND VISION FOR A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH

The image features a central graphic of a globe with a white outline and a golden-yellow fill. The continents are depicted in white against the golden background. A horizontal banner with a slight 3D effect, colored in a vibrant orange-red, is superimposed over the center of the globe. The banner contains the text "A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The entire composition is set against a background of a faded, light-colored world map with visible grid lines and some geographical labels like "UNITED STATES" and "INDIAN OCEAN".

A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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 11:19-26

²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Acts 11:19-26

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11:19-26



WE
ARE
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You are a part of a critical
mass of people empowered by
the Holy Spirit



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1) The Principle of Evangelism

(vs. 19-21)

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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 11:19-21

²¹ The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.

Acts 11:19-21

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Acts 1:8



Theologian Eckhard Schnabel estimated that the Apostle Paul travelled at least 15,500 miles including both land and sea travel, with at least 8,700 miles of that total by walking over a period of 663 days.



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Persecution is part of the
biblical framework for
evangelism

¹⁶ “I am sending you out like sheep
among wolves.”

Matthew 10:16

⁴ Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

Acts 8:4



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The spread of the gospel and growth of the church will challenge the securities of Christians



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2) A Principle of Encouragement (vs. 22-24)

²² News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³ When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts.

Acts 11:22-24

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:22-24

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement")

Acts 4:36



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Pray for the encouragement
and effectiveness of other
churches in Kitchener-Waterloo



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Encouragement is a spiritual gift that needs to be recognized and exercised.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8



Not having the spiritual gift of encouragement is not an excuse to not encourage. For others, encouragement is a gift to be developed

²⁴ He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit
and faith.

Acts 11:24

²⁵ When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. ¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

Acts 12:25-13:3

² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 12:25-13:3



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The transformation of Paul's identity is God's affirmation and encouragement expressed through His church



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3) A Principle of Education (vs. 25-26)

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11:25-26



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Discipleship, not bible college
or seminary education, is the
Christian education of the
church

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20



Christians must not be satisfied with people just being saved, we must be satisfied with people being disciplined

Those who have not been disciplined will find it difficult to disciple others

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**A) Discipleship is a
partnership
(vs. 25-26a)**

²⁵ Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,
²⁶ and when he found him, he brought him to
Antioch.

Acts 11:25-26a



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Paul had 78 associates
mentioned by name in the
New Testament

Barnabas (Acts 15:22)

Judas/Barsabbas (Acts 15:22)

Timothy (Acts 16:3)

Lydia (Acts 16:14)

Dionysius and Damarius (Acts 16:34)

Apollos (Acts 19:1)

Sopater, Secundas & Gaius (Acts 20:4)

Philip (Acts 21:8)

Mnason (Acts 21:16)

Julius (Acts 27:3)

Phoebe (Romans 16:1)

Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:1)

Epaenetus (Romans 16:5)

Mary (Romans 16:6)

Andronicus and Junia (Romans 16:7)

Ampliatius (Romans 16:8)

Urbanus and Stachys (Romans 16:9)

Apelles and Aristobulus (Romans 16:10)

Herodion and Narcissus (Romans 16:11)

Tryphaena, Tryphosa & Persis (Romans 16:12)

Rufus and his mother (Romans 16:13)

Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, and
Hermas (Romans 16:14)

Philologus, Julia, Nereus, his sister & Olympas
(Romans 16:15)

Lucius, Jason & Sosipater (Romans 16:21)

Tertius (Romans 16:22)

Gaius, Erastus, and Quartus (Romans 16:23)

Titus (Titus 1:4)

Artemas (Titus 3:12)

Zenas (Titus 3:13)

Apollos (Titus 3:13)

Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25)

Epaphras (Colossians 1:7)

Tychicus (Colossians 4:7)

Onesimus (Colossians 4:9)

Aristarchus, Mark & Justus (Colossians 4:10-11)

Luke and Demas (Colossians 4:14)

Nympha (Colossians 4:15)

Archippus (Colossians 4:17)

Silas/Silvanus (1 Thessalonians 1:1)

Onesiphorus (2 Timothy 1:6)

Crescens (2 Timothy 4:10)

Carpus (2 Timothy 4:13)

Erastus and Trophimus (2 Timothy 4:20)

Eubulus, Pudens, Linus & Claudia (2 Timothy 4:21)

Philemon and Apphia (Philemon 1:1)



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Discipleship is a partnership
that fuses Christians of various
ethnicities together



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B) Discipleship is a process
(vs. 26b)

So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11:26b

You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. ² Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance.

³ Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.

Titus 2:1-8

⁴ Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵ to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

⁶ Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled.

Titus 2:1-8

⁷ In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸ and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.

Titus 2:1-8

⁹ Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰ and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.

Titus 2:9-10

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

Titus 2:11-14

¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Titus 2:11-14

The disciples were called Christians first at
Antioch.

Acts 11:26b



WE
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“Christian” is not just a title,
it’s an identity and lifestyle



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The result of discipleship is
that you authentically look
like, talk like and think
like Christ



The basics of Christianity are
the secrets of Christianity
for the growth of a multi-
ethnic church

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As we evangelize, may a great number of people believe and turn to the Lord. (vs. 21)

As we encourage, may a great number of people be brought to the Lord. (vs. 24)

As we educate, may we teach great numbers of people (vs. 26)



GOD'S GRAND VISION FOR A MULTI-ETHNIC CHURCH