

## **ONE: THE CHALLENGE**

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### **Acts 1:8 NKJ**

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

### **Genesis 11:1-9 NKJ**

*Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, “Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.*

### **Matthew 24:7 NKJ**

*For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom...*

### **Ephesians 2:14-18 NIV**

*For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself ONE NEW HUMANITY out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to RECONCILE both of*

*them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

### **The Challenge:**

#### 1. Spiritual Warfare

#### **Ephesians 6:12 NCV**

*Our fight is not against people on earth but against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness, against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world.*

#### 2. Conflicting Perspectives

- White Perspective: Racism is an individual problem.
- Black Perspective: Racism is an institutional problem.
- Hispanic Perspective: Racism is an anti-immigration problem.
- Asian Perspective: Racism is a cultural problem.

#### 3. Cultural Idolatry

#### 4. Apathy of the Majority

### **Starting Points to Healing:**

1. Approach everything with a heart of reconciliation.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:15-20 NKJ**

*...and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;*

*old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

- The Key to a Heart of Reconciliation: Humility

### **Philippians 2:2-4 NLT**

*Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be HUMBLE, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.*

2. Become intentional.

### **John 4:9 NKJ**

*Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.*

3. Begin to adopt a kingdom culture.

### **John 18:36 NKJ**

*..."My kingdom is not of this world..."*

### **Matthew 6:10 NKJ**

*Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.*

### **Matthew 6:33 NKJ**

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

**In the Kingdom Culture:**

1. You're trying to lose your life instead of save your life.
2. You're living to serve others rather than be served.
3. Your goals shift from "How much can I acquire?" to "How much can I use to help others?"
4. You give up the right to be offended.
5. You view every person as valuable as yourself.
6. You love your enemies.