

“We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites” The Bible on Our Multicultural Church

2. **Growing up in Glendale, CA**
 White, middle class, Protestant

4. **LA County**
 LA County Compared to the USA

	LA	USA
Hispanic/Latino	48%	18%
Non-Latino White	26%	61%
Asian	15%	5.8%
African American	9%	13.4%
Native American	1.4%	1.3%
Pacific Islander	0.4%	0.2%

5. **3.5 Million of LA County’s 10 Million**
 Europe 172,000
 Africa 56,000
 China 530,000
 Korea 300,000
 Philippines 375,000
 Vietnam 88,000
 Mexico 1,360,000
 Guatemala 270,000
 El Salvador 420,000

6. **Ethnic Unrest**
 1871 – Anti-Chinese Riots
 1943 – Zoot Suit Riot
 1965 – Watt's Riot
 1970 – Chicano Moratorium Police Riot
 1992 – Rodney King Riot

7. **Multi Cultural Archdiocese**
 Arabic, Aramaic, Armenian, Cambodian,
 Chaldean, Cantonese, Mandarin, Croatian,
 Tagalog, French. Garifuna, German,
 Guamanian, Haitian French, Spanish,
 Hungarian, Igbo, Syro-Malabar, Indonesian,
 Italian, Japanese, Korean, Lithuanian,
 Mayan, Polish, Portuguese, Samoan,
 Slavonic, Thai, Tongan, Ukrainian,
 Vietnamese

8. **Complex Parishes**
 St. Mary Magdalene, Camarillo
 5 English, 1, Spanish, 1 Vietnamese, 1 Latin

9. **“English Speaking” doesn’t mean “Anglo”**

10. **“Puppy”**

11. **Watches**

12. **How to Solve the Dilemma**

13. **Three Perspectives**
 Universalist: Human beings have more in
 common than the differences we
 experience.
 Evolutionist: All cultures develop on a
 continuum from primitive to civilized.
 Relationist: The boundaries of cultural
 worlds are permeable, and affected by
 neighboring cultural worlds.

14. **What does the Bible *Not* Say**
 “multi-cultural,” “inter-cultural,” “cultural
 appropriation

15. **The Church’s Beginning**
 Pentecost: Acts 2:1-12; Exodus 23:14-17
 When the Holy Spirit acts...people
understand

16. **Paul’s Ministry**
 1 Cor 9:19-23: Becoming all things to all
 people
 No Mini-Me thinking

17. **Early Troubles**
 Acts 6:1-6
 The apostle bungle
 The problem was cultural, not religious
 A new ministry is formed
 The neglected become the ministers!

18. **Jewish and Gentile Christians**
Acts 11:1-3: No fraternizing!
Acts 15:1-2: Be like us for salvation
Acts 10:44-48: The Holy Spirit acts
19. **Paul on Distinctions / Jesus on Welcoming**
Acts 15 – testimony from Paul, Barnabus and Peter
Paul: Rom 10:12 – no distinctions
Gal3:26-29 – you are all children of God
Jesus: John 6:35, 37 – “Whoever comes to me...”
20. **Important Notes from the Early Church**
Acts 15:19-20 – The Council of Jerusalem
The majority do not win.
The leaders do not impose their old norms.
Hospitality triumphs over "the way we've always done it."
A novel approach is tried – and succeeds!
21. **Last Words and Multi-Cultural Conclusions**
Jesus' last directive: Matt 28:16-20
22. **Multi-Cultural Inter-Cultural**