

SESSION 05

**The example of the
multicultural congregation
Theology of a Stranger
Part V**

Instructor



STEPHEN BECK PhD

Stephen is a career church planter and church planting instructor. He has served with the Redeemer Church Planting network in Canada, more recently with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. He is considered one of the "cutting edge" Greater Europe Missionaries in this regard. He is Professor of Practical Theology at Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen, Germany. He has also been guest lecturer at a number of institutions on the European continent. He is married to Susan, and they have four children. In 2011 Stephen and Susan embarked on yet another journey: together with twenty-five college students they planted a multi-everything church for the Frankfurt metro region. Through the refugee wave that came over Germany, this church multiplied to fifteen congregations in 6 years.

Goals

Target group for this course: any kind of church planter, home group starter or any other person who looks to draw people from culturally diverse backgrounds who group together for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Goal:

- Equip and prepare you to set up a group gathering with people of different ethnical, cultural, linguistic or any other kind of human variation backgrounds.
- Know why it is important to focus on varieties of cultures when planting a church.
- Understand the biblical theology of a multicultural theology.
- Know how to plant a multicultural church.
- Know how to deal with specific challenges of life in a multicultural church.

Sessions Overview

1. The theology of a stranger – Introduction
2. The theology of a stranger – Solomon's prayer
3. The theology of a stranger – Jesus was an immigrant
4. The theology of a stranger – Christians as strangers in the world
- 5. The theology of a stranger – The example of the multicultural congregation**
6. Phase I: Preparations for church planting
7. Phase II: Go on a mission
8. Phase III: Making disciples
9. Phase IV: Training leaders
10. Phase V: Multiplying community

Session Summary

The picture that we have from Ephesians chapter 2 of the Church is the community that God shows to the world. It shows us how diverse people, from many different cultures, skin colors, education and state backgrounds put together, are essentially a picture of the new humanity in its perfected state in heaven will be like.

Fill in the Blancs

1. According to the teaching in this video session, what are the pictures Paul is using to illustrate his point in Ephesians chapter 2?

2. According to Dr. Beck, Pentecost is not the birthdate of the Church as the ‘new Israel of God’, but that Israel was already the Church of God since the patriarchs period. Describe what do you understand from that about the national character of the Church a) before and b) after Pentecost. Use the parable of the cultivated and wild olive trees Paul is using in Romans chapter 11.

3. How is a multicultural church an example to the world?
