

Build Your Kingdom Here

It's Queensland Week and to celebrate the 11th annual LUMINOUS Lantern Parade will highlight the strength of our cultural diversity, our heritage, our people, places and history, giving all Queenslanders the opportunity to say "Welcome" to our newest Australians.



The gospel challenge is to find a way to redress obscene inequality because the global community has the resources to provide a home for everyone and the means for all to live in the dignity of the children of God.

– Veronica Lawson rsm

Reverend Professor N T Wright makes the connection between the Kingdom and the pursuit of ethnic and racial diversity (Christ at the Core, 2017 – informal talk).

One of the things we learn historically when we look at the world of Jesus and Paul and the early Church is that the ethnic question was totally different to how we perceive it because if you live in the Middle East, to this day, and if you live in a culture where people are crossing over from North Africa to Greece and back again ... the colour of your skin is relatively unimportant ...

The biggest division which you see in the New Testament however is between Jews and non-Jews. The Jews are very clear there is a wall of separation that non-Jews are different and Jews have to stay within the family and they have cultural symbols which keep them within the family and the whole point of the Gospel as applied in Galatians 2:11-21, for instance, is that in the Messiah that wall has gone.

When you talk about ... the Kingdom what you are talking about is Jesus being the Lord of the whole world and of it being gloriously diverse and intending to stay that way and if you read Revelation this wonderful vision of the

myriad of the redeemed praising God they're from every nation, and kindred, and tribe and tongue.

Obviously, it is hard to take a society like modern Britain [or modern Australia] ... and just say okay you've got to do diversity. Diversity takes time, but that's got to be the goal because if you don't do that what you're saying is that we still like our cultural barriers and distinctiveness.

If you read Romans 14, Paul is very clever ... Paul doesn't say some of you are Jews and some of you are Gentiles he says some of us only eat vegetables and some are quite happy to eat meat or whatever, some of us like to keep special days holy and others aren't too bothered about it. So let's not judge one another, the aim is that with one heart and voice you glorify the one God ...

In other words **ethnic integration is at the ground level of the gospel**, it's not an extra bit of something rather special for those who think they can manage it. It is absolutely basic and it is built in from the beginning.

Reference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=omAwWJEyYJO&feature=youtu.be>

REFLECTION

- > How do we help those who enter our workspace feel comfortable, welcome and valued?
- > How do you promote gospel diversity?