

**A Credible Witness Series**  
**Part One**  
**09/03/22**  
**Newport News**

**Opening**

-3 weeks in this series...

-then 6 weeks of Holy Roar...

**Introduction**

-What multi-cultural church has felt like here at City Life.

-Some of my personal observations and conclusions about The Church in America.

-Scriptural support of multi-cultural church.

-Why the title of series.

-Mark DeyMaz's seven core commitments of a multi-cultural church.

-City Life's 3 C's for diversity: celebration, consideration, and collaboration.

**Our Church**

**-(work off of slides)**

**The Church in America**

**-In 2006 a group called Mosaix set out with the goal of seeing 20% of churches in America reach 20 percent racial diversity by the year of 2020...and in 2020 when they released their data, that goal had been realized.**

- But was this "on purpose" (question we ask our kids)
- How many became diverse because their context did?
- How many became diverse because of "white flight?"
- % of black people attending mc churches 27% in 2012.

- After 2020 that number dropped to 21%.

-Christianity Today Article

*But I wasn't buying it. Having studied multiracial churches, I knew he was in for a rude awakening. I shared some of what I discuss in my book *The Elusive Dream: The Power of Race in Interracial Churches: Multiracial churches tend to mimic white churches in their culture and theology; whites are not comfortable with black church culture or addressing the elephant in the room, race; multiracial churches work—that is, remain diverse—to the extent that their white members are comfortable.* – Korie Little Edwards*

-examples: music, preaching, leadership, women, politics, polity, etc.

-(read from Pew Research Article)

*-So what do I say about the glaring correlation between the rise in multi-cultural church and the steep decline in church affiliation over the exact same period?*

**-I believe churches in America are in decline even while the diversity of congregations are on the rise because people who are coming to churches in search of a Gospel message that promises reconciliation are finding churches preaching a cross that reconciles us to God but is simultaneously failing miserably at being reconciled to one another...simply put, we lack a credible witness!**

## Multi-Cultural in Scripture

**-Building A Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church by Mark DeyMaz...**

-Ephesians 3:1-6 in NASB

- The mystery is NOT reconciled to God
- The mystery IS reconciled to one another
- Chapter 4 unity in the church
- Chapter 5 unity in the home
- Chapter 6 is warning against spiritual attack!
- *Devil knows the credibility of our message cannot be overcome...so the next best option is to destroy the credibility of our witness!*
- Revelation 12:11

-(read excerpt from page 32)

**-Revelation 2:2-4 (NASB)**

-(read excerpts from pages 36 and 37)

### **(POSSIBLE BREAK POINT FOR WEEK ONE)**

#### **A Credible Witness (series title)**

-1 John 1:1-5a (give commentary as to what John is doing here)

-Isaiah 40:9

-(talk about our dream here at City Life...our vision)

**-I believe His Church is supposed to be a community of faith where the world sees people reconciling relationships whose lives seem irreconcilable.**

-John 1:50, 5:20, 14:12-14 (reference)

**-Is it even in the realm of possibility that one day Christ followers will perform more miracles than Jesus Himself?**

*-What if Jesus wasn't talking about physical miracles? Is it possible that Jesus was performing miracles on the tangible to inspire faith for miracles on the intangible? (acknowledge miracles were proof of His divinity AND give my Pentecostal clarifier...)*

*-What if it's my blindness to the Imago Dei in others...*

*-What if it's my deafness to the pain and suffering and lament of others...*

*-What if it's my atrophied will that won't move toward my brother and sister in Christ who is in need...*

*-What if it's my loving, calming presence that's supposed to calm the storms of life that are causing others to despair...*

*-What if...what if it's the miracle of reconciling relationships that feel irreconcilable!!!!!!!!!!*

**-John 17:20-24**

- You know why He is praying right...one mind is impossible for us!
- It's going to take something supernatural to reconcile the irreconcilable...
- AND, listen to what He says...this IS our witness!!!!
- It is a direct connection to Megas Ergon...
- Philippians 2:1-4 (make room for one another's mind)

**Band**

-DeyMaz's 7 Commitments of a Multi-Ethnic Church

- 1. Embrace Dependence**
- 2. Take Initial Steps**
- 3. Empower Diverse Leadership**
- 4. Develop Cross-Cultural Relationships**
- 5. Pursue Cross-Cultural Competence**
- 6. Promote a Spirit of Inclusion**
- 7. Mobilize for Impact**

-Our 3 C's

1. Celebration
2. Consideration
3. Collaboration

**Close**