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# The High Definition Leader: Building Multiethnic Churches In A Multiethnic World

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**THE**  
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Building multiethnic churches in a multiethnic world

FOREWORD by MATT CHANDLER



## Synopsis

The United States is known as the "Great Melting Pot," yet a survey of our churches on Sunday Morning would reveal a noticeably different portrait of our ethnic make-up. Every facet of American culture is multi-ethnic. Yet, the Church is not. The church is segregated. Drawing from scripture, Derwin shows how the modern church is suffering from being homogenous and how we are not fulfilling our calling as effectively as we should be. The High-Definition Leader is a call for churches and their leaders to grow out of ignorance, class-ism, racism, and greed into a flourishing and vibrant community of believers united in their devotion to serving God and sharing His love with the world.

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## Customer Reviews

This book is fantastic! As a white male planting a church in Los Angeles, I can say that the Spirit has used this book to break my heart to intentionally plant a multiethnic church to demonstrate the

Gospel of reconciliation to a watching world. Since reading *The HD Leader*, I feel like I am seeing the Scriptures more clearly and accurately. Similar to when I started seeing the Gospel on each page of the Scriptures, I now feel like I am seeing God's desire for the nations reconciled under one roof for His glory. I appreciate Derwin's heart to help lead pastors like myself to see a more beautiful and comprehensive view of Jesus and His good news. I highly recommend this deeply-theological, yet highly practical book on planting and building a multiethnic church for God's glory and our joy.

Some tools in your tool box you don't realize how much you need it until it is in your hand. Then you say I should have loved to have this years ago. *High Definition Leader* by Derwin Gray is that tool. Once you read this book you will ask yourself the question where has this been all along. The theological foundation with the practical application makes this a resource that should be not just on the bookshelf of every Pastor but on the desk at home and at the office. I have read this book multiple times and each time I find new content and eye opening understanding. My book is a collage of various colors of High Lite markers due to these new revelations. Get this book today for you and your team. It will bring new life to God's desire for his church.

The call for all pastors is to help create churches that reflect, even though imperfectly, the heavenly worship we are headed for. To do this we must be as gracious to different ethnicities through all we do as a church without forsaking the Gospel or the Bible. Derwin Gray does an amazing job with both the theology and practicals needed foster these God honoring types of churches.

As a pastor of a multiethnic church in Queens, NYC, I'm always looking for resources to help me dive deeper into a biblical framework of racial reconciliation and diversity. Derwin Gray's book, *The HD Leader* is a great place to start for anyone looking for a theological/biblical framework. There are a number of things I appreciated: 1) I love the hard work Derwin put into presenting a robust biblical theology for multiethnic church. I could tell he did his homework. Loved how he consistently couched multiethnic ministry as a major outcome of the gospel. Anyone looking to teach about multiethnic ministry has a good framework presented here. 2) I appreciated the critique of the Homogeneous Unit Principle. It was nice to see Derwin address the limits (and lack of biblical support for the HUP). I think many (most?) folks who are leading churches assume the HUP. He gave an alternative vision that something else is possible. 3) I'm really happy he took time to address why black churches have difficulty with multiethnic ministry. I think it's critically important to pay attention to history. This provided helpful nuance on a very complex issue. 4) I love the evangelistic

passion Derwin writes with. Transformation Church will continue to reach people because of this infectious approach. Great book to get you started!

The HD Leader is a game changer and must read for anyone serious about God's bride (the Church) in a multiethnic world. This book is theologically robust yet practical enough for any leader to digest and glean from its rich content. Derwin Gray firmly establishes the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as the reason for planting and building the multiethnic church. He challenges our Western church culture's normative views of success, usually defined by attendance, notoriety, twitter followers, and budget size, with the Gospel and proven biblical principles. Reading the HD Leader makes it difficult to remain comfortable with the embarrassing truth of over 80% of American churches are homogenous and often by choice. This book points us back to our Savior and the Cross! The HD Leader is not chalked full of theory and conjecture. It is written by one of the most sought after practitioners in today's multiethnic church planting movement. Do yourself a favor. Buy this book for you and your entire leadership team. Spend a copious amount of time devouring it, page by page and in prayer seeking God's guidance on how to live it out in today's multicolored world that is desperate to see the glory of God put on display in local multiethnic congregations that are a foretaste of heaven and a reflection of her respective community.

This is an important book. Pastor Gray unpacks the biblical and theological foundation for the difficult and God-glorifying task of planting and leading multi-ethnic churches. If you are looking for a book with the silver bullet to multi-ethnic churches with a pragmatic approach, this is not the book for you. However, if you are looking to have serious Kingdom impact as you do the hard work of prayer and ministry of the word to see God create local congregations that reflect his heart, then look no further than the HD Leader.

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