

What Does the Bible Have to Say About Diversity?



Valley Forge, PA – “Faith in the twenty-first century depends on our ability to embrace the multicultural message of the Bible,” contends professor, author, and reconciliation expert Dr. Curtiss Paul DeYoung in *Coming Together in the 21st Century: The Bible’s Message in an Age of Diversity*. Matters of racial reconciliation and diversity have been in the forefront since the election of Barack Obama. This fifteenth anniversary edition of the original *Coming Together* offers readers an in-depth study of multiculturalism and diversity in Scripture, broadening the definition of diversity by adding gender and class to race, culture, and ethnicity. The result is a timely and critical resource to guide Christians in addressing and responding to the issues of today.

Coming Together in the 21st Century features contributions from ethnically and culturally diverse men and women who add their voices and unique perspectives to this conversation. Among the contributors are these notable authors, academics, and experts in the field of reconciliation and multicultural ministries:

- **Allan Aubrey Boesak** – author and professor of Public Theology at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa
- **Leticia A. Guardiola-Sáenz** – coeditor of *The Peoples’ Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*; New Testament teacher at Seattle University School of Theology
- **Mimi Haddad** – president of Christians for Biblical Equality (Minneapolis, MN); coeditor of *Global Voices on Biblical Equality: Women and Men Serving Together in the Church*
- **Brenda Salter McNeil** – president of Salter McNeil & Associates in Chicago; author of *A Credible Witness: Reflections on Power, Evangelism and Race*
- **Richard Twiss** – president of Wiconi International in Vancouver, WA; author of *One Church, Many Tribes: Following Jesus the Way God Made You*
- **Frank M. Yamada** – director of the Center for Asian American Ministry and associate professor of Hebrew Bible at McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL); coeditor of *The Peoples’ Bible: New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha*
- **Jean Zaru** – Palestinian peace activist and presiding clerk of the Friends Meeting House in Ramallah in the occupied Palestinian territories; author of *Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks*

With its group reflection and action guide, *Coming Together in the 21st Century* is an important resource for academics, church leaders, and all who are seek an informed, thoughtful conversation on matters of identity in today’s increasingly diverse world. (Continued)

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For Immediate Release

About the Author: Curtiss Paul DeYoung, MDiv, EdD, is professor of reconciliation studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Previously, DeYoung has served in urban multicultural settings as the president of the Twin Cities Urban Reconciliation Network (TURN), executive director of the City Gate Project, and pastor of multiracial congregations. Internationally, DeYoung speaks on the topics of reconciliation and the multiculturalism of the Bible. *Coming Together in the 21st Century* is his sixth book.

“This text carefully listens to the biblical cry for justice emanating from the margins of society and brings it into conversation with a dominant culture that has made their subjective interpretations normative. DeYoung seeks biblical truth claims by bringing these diverse perspectives together, always striving toward a liberation in which all can participate.” —Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre, associate professor of Social Ethics, Iliff School of Theology

“In this new edition of *Coming Together*, DeYoung reminds us that the journey towards a biblically-based diversity is a difficult one, but one worth traveling. He has pulled together his personal reflections as well as additional essential voices in this dialogue to provide a thoughtful, biblical, and needed challenge for the church.” —Soong-Chan Rah, author of *The Next Evangelicalism* and Milton B. Engebretson Associate Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, North Park Theological Seminary

“*Coming Together in the 21st Century* is a fascinating set of essays that wrestle with biblical and theological issues around racial diversity and the history of both implicit and explicit euro-Christian interpretations of racial, cultural and religious superiority.” —Dr. Tink Tinker (Wazhazhe, Osage Nation), Clifford Baldrige Professor of American Indian Cultures and Religious Traditions, Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO

“Curtiss DeYoung is an unsung hero of reconciliation, an apologist for liberation, an academic revolutionary, and a pilgrim on the narrow, rugged road that leads to freedom. Read this book... and let it mess with you. And let it move us all a little closer to God and to one another.” —Shane Claiborne, author, activist, recovering sinner

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