



Our mission is to raise up leaders for the Great Commission



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The
"Williams
Word"

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Unity Amongst Diversity

The college campus is increasingly diverse, especially among the student-athlete population. Knowing God's heart is for none to perish (2 Peter 3:9), we must consider how to effectively cross cultures in our missionary efforts. One of the reasons we're excited to be with Athletes in Action is the shared mission to contextualize the gospel to students of various backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities.



Matt's small group at Lenses

Matt recently attended *The Lenses Institute*, a five-day intensive training that aims to help the Church fight for "Oneness" by influencing the way Christian leaders see, understand, and act in our ethnically and culturally diverse world. The training helps us discover a Biblical picture of unified diversity, or Oneness, in the kingdom of God. We each consider how our "lenses" shape the way we think about, and minister to, those in our communities, churches, and campuses. **Our goal is not to be "colorblind" but to see the beauty of God in the diversity of His people, while celebrating and learning from the experiences of others.** Revelation 5:9-10 paints a beautiful picture of what heaven will be like:

"And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'"

Matt's Reflections

A quote that resonates with me is "Jesus took responsibility for that which was not his fault." What a beautiful reality that Jesus willingly took on a mission to fix an eternal problem that wasn't his fault (John 1:14). To me, that's a clear picture of sacrificial love.

Consider this question with me: *How can you give of yourself in a sacrificial way to love and serve others who look and act different from you?* I hope you're encouraged to think and pray about that.

I'm reminded that being a cross-cultural learner is not contained to one event or week. It's a lifelong choice to press in and ask God to use my humble efforts. Jesus crossed ultimate barriers to engage with us. As we do the same, we reflect Christ to a broken world looking for hope.