



# gratitude



<sup>1</sup> "Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. <sup>2</sup> We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup> We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ...

*1 thessalonians 1:1-8*



... <sup>4</sup> For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup> because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup> You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. ...

*1 thessalonians 1:1-8*



...<sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.<sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere."

*1 thessalonians 1:1-8*



<sup>3</sup> "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

<sup>8</sup> "The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere."

*1 thessalonians 1:3,8*



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**1 thessalonians 1:3,8**



connect

serve

give

invite

dream

"Involvement in multiracial congregations, over time, leads to fundamental differences. Friendships patterns change...we find that people in multiracial congregations have significantly more friendships across race than do other Americans. For example, *for those attending racially homogenous congregations*, 83 percent said most or all of their friends were the same race as them. For those not attending any congregation, 70 percent said most or all of their friends were the same race as them."

*michael emerson*



"But for those attending multiracial congregations, there is *a dramatic difference*. Only 36 percent of people attending racially mixed congregation said most or all of their friends were the same race as them. And we found that those 36 percent were relatively recent arrivals to their racially mixed congregations. ...

*michael emerson*

...Indeed, we found that by far the most important factor in people having racially diverse relationships is whether they attend a racially mixed congregation. Partly due to the greater relationships across race, *involvement in multiracial congregations leads to attitudinal change—change toward closing the racial gap in racial attitudes.*"

*michael emerson*

"The implication for a racially divided but changing nation is clear. In contemporary times, multiracial congregations offer a promising path forward."

*michael emerson*

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"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

*john* 13:34-35



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INTRO GIVING IS RESPONSIVE GIVING

NEXT LEVEL IS PREVENTATIVE GIVING



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"You have been teaching others about repentance and forgiveness. You do well in instructing others and leading others toward forgiveness. It is now your turn to forgive those who killed your relatives without asking where I was. It is your turn to forgive those who brutally murdered your loved ones, even before you know their names. ...

*celestin musekara*  
*"forgiving as we've been forgiven"*

... It is up to you to make a choice: either forgive and let me take care of the rest or fail to forgive and give up your freedom, joy and peace. You can either choose to be a hypocrite who teaches what he does not practice, or you can be the wounded healer who gives the healing gift of forgiveness to the undeserving."

*celestine musekara*  
*"forgiving as we've been forgiven"*

<sup>6</sup> "You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. <sup>7</sup> And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. <sup>8</sup> The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere."

*1 thessalonians 1:6-8*





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