

# Relationships in the church of christ



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Mexican and African-American Relations in the Church of Christ American society can be defined by its multi-cultural essence that incorporates a wide variety of nationals living together in harmony. The people from across different countries have not only successfully adapted to different cultures but at the same time, they have managed to hold their own distinct national character and culture. Race, language and the color of the skin of people from different countries, have not impeded their pursuit of professional and personal excellence in different spheres of their life. Looking specifically at the Mexican Americans and African Americans, the thesis would try to define the role of Church of Christ in uniting these two cross cultural communities and study its influence in promoting leadership qualities for acculturation. The two ethnic communities; Mexican-American and African-American are characterized by their vastly different cultures and individual set of cross cultural problems. But the social barriers have been overcome to build a society where these two different communities collaborate and mutually support each other and successfully help build relationships within the Church of Christ. The study would make efforts to compare the two groups' leadership roles, on the basis of their assimilation, integration and cross-cultural communication and study the predominant influence of Church of Christ in prevailing over language, race and socio-economic constraints. The thesis aims to collect relevant data through comprehensive interview schedules and study the historical importance of 8th Street Church of Christ in San Jose, CA. in consolidating and uniting the congregation that is defined by its diversity in terms of language and culture. The scope of the thesis would include the study of Church of Christ, incorporating various factors like: organization of church services, integration of funds, language barriers,

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translation of sermons, communication between the eldership and deacons, individual thoughts of leaders, how scripture defines leadership roles etc., which determine the impact of Church in promoting and building social relationships that transcend the border of race, language and culture especially in the last five years.

The research proposes to analyze the data and evaluate it from the various perspectives so that an unbiased and detailed outcome could be reached on the impact of Church on these two communities which have overcome cross cultural barriers to forge long lasting relationships that promotes professional and personal excellence in the field of their interests.

It is envisaged that the study would also enable the people to better understand the importance of Church and redefine and emphasize the role of the Church in initiating the assimilation, integration and acculturation of the society so that the artificial hurdles, created by the people due to different races, cultures and languages, could be smoothly overcome to build a better world dominated by mutual trust and cooperation. It can therefore, be conclusively stated that the study would not only benefit the communities at large but it would also ensure better dissemination of information among the cross cultural society leading to mutual respect and trust for each other.