



Mixed Blessing
Embracing the Fullness of Your Multiethnic Identity

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Chandra Crane (MA Ministry, Reformed Theological Seminary) is the mixed ministry coordinator for the multiethnic initiatives department of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and has written for *In All Things*, *The Well*, and *The Witness: A Black Christian Collective*. Growing up in a multiethnic/multicultural family in the Southwest and now happily transplanted to the Deep South, Chandra is passionate about diversity and family and is a member of the multiethnic Redeemer Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Visit ChandraCrane.com. Follow her on Twitter: @ChandraLCrane.

"So What Are You?"

How did you begin to see a need for a book like *Mixed Blessing*?

Chandra Crane: Being multiethnic and multicultural, I've long had a feeling that I didn't quite fit right into any space. I've longed to find my "people," those that would understand some of my mixed experiences. I wanted to tell my story—as well as others' stories—to help foster a sense of community and belonging. I want all multiethnic folks to be able to say that God was very intentional and loving in the way that he made us mixed, that we are a blessing.

How do you hope to encourage your readers?

Chandra: As mixed folks face the eternal question of "What are you?" from both without and within, we can find comfort and meaning in the multiethnicity of Jesus. Jesus was mixed! Discovering what "identity in Christ" truly means can bring healing to a fractured sense of self. We mixed folks are not alone, and we deserve to be cared for by our families and the church. We also have a lot to contribute and a lot we can teach others about being in liminal spaces. It is not a question of "either/or" caring or being cared for, it is the gospel message of "both/and" serving and being served.

What messages do you hope readers take from *Mixed Blessing*?

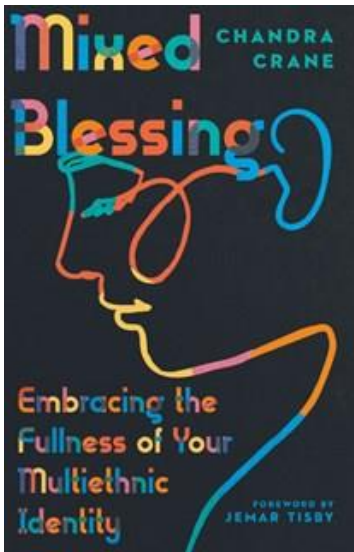
Chandra:

- Jesus was mixed ethnically and culturally. God is honored in the multiethnic body of Jesus, and he can be honored in the way we inhabit our mixed bodies.
- Even when others demand that we "choose," and no matter what ethnicities we do or don't identify with, we do not have to buy into false dichotomies. We do not have to follow what others assume and demand of us. We follow Jesus in the freedom of being all who he has designed us to be.
- No matter what phenotype(s) we present—whether we look "ambiguous" or we look monoethnic, we deserve to be seen and cared for. We are not alone.



Tara Burns, print and online publicity
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or tburns@ivpress.com

Krista Clayton, author interviews
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or kclayton@ivpress.com



Q & A



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“Mixed Blessing reminds us that people are not created for boxes but for God’s glory. This book helps fill an inexcusable gap in our understanding of racial and ethnic dynamics. . . . Is Mixed Blessing an easy read? Certainly not. But it is an essential one.”

—From the foreword by Jemar Tisby, president of The Witness

- As we fight the good fight against both colorism and colorblindness, mixed folks can often get caught in the middle. Rather than playing into the lies of colorism—that lighter skin tones are more desirable and holy—mixed folks can speak into the gap and affirm darker-skinned siblings. Against the lies of colorblindness—that skin tone is irrelevant—mixed folks can affirm that all skin tones are valuable and made by God for the eternal purpose of singing his praises.
- The way we can move between cultures and people groups, the way that we live in liminal spaces, is a gift to ourselves and others. Though often hard, our “in-between” state, and our longing for wholeness, preaches the gospel loud and clear as we think about being sojourners together, longing for the new heavens and the new earth. We are walking testaments to how God has made Jesus the firstfruits of the joy that is to come.



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