

Seven Sayings of a Gracist

David A. Anderson in Gracism, 2007

“I will lift you up”

From the Bible: Special Honor

Action: Choose to lift up the humble among us

“I will cover you.”

From the Bible: Special Modesty

*Action: Protect the most vulnerable among us
from embarrassment*

“I will share with you.”

From the Bible: No special treatment

*Action: Refuse to accept special treatment if it is
a detriment to others*

“I will honor you.”

From the Bible: Greater Honor

Action: God gives honor to the humble. Will you?

“I will stand with you.”

From the Bible: No Division

*Action: When in the majority, help those who are
not or the stronger help the weaker
there is no division*

“I will consider you.”

From the Bible: Equal Concern

*Action: Care for and about your neighbor as much
as for yourself*

“I will celebrate with you.”

From the Bible: Rejoices

*Action: When the humble or less honored are
helped, we can all rejoice together*

From the Bible: All one Body

1 Corinthians 12:22-26

Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body ... Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part rejoices with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

From the book *Gracism*

Now the body is not made up of one culture but of many. If the blacks should say to the whites, “Because I am not white, I do not belong to the body,” it would not make it true. The blacks would still be a part of the body whether they vote for the same candidates or not. And if the whites should say, “Because I am not black I do not belong to the body,” it would not make it true. The whites would still be part of the body whether they clapped their hands and shouted loudly in church or not ...

The Cuban church cannot say to the Haitian church “I don’t need you!” The Puerto Rican church cannot say to the Mexican church, “I don’t need you!” The suburban church cannot say to the urban church, “I don’t need you!” Jews cannot say to Arabs, “I don’t need you!” Palestinians cannot say to Jews, “I don’t need you!”

On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are not to be dismissed or discarded as if they don’t matter. They are God’s special instruments of honor to reveal an aspect of God that would otherwise not be seen.

There is really no part of the Christian body that is to be dismissed as unimportant. They all matter! If Palestinian Christians suffer, we all suffer. If South African Christians are freed from apartheid, we all rejoice with them.