Complex Identity in a Complex Church

Natalia Perez
Hello! My name is Natalia Perez. I grew up in Worcester, Massachusetts, and ventured down to the adorable little city of Chattanooga, Tennessee to pursue a writing degree. Growing up amid Puerto Rican and Dominican cultures, my parents have fueled my rich background. Since I was raised in a bubble of Latinos for the greater part of my years at home, I didn’t really become culturally aware until I moved down South, where people, including my own people, question my ethnicity often and seem surprised when I speak Spanish fluently. This forced me into cultural self-discovery, a switch between not only identifying as a Latina, but an Afro-Latina, a Latin American woman with prominent Afrocentric features.

Aside from my complex racial identity, I’m a passionate journalist and a second-generation Adventist who’s still discovering tons about race, gender, ethnic/people groups and how we all come together to make one church. Understanding a diverse community is
wonderful and necessary for our growth as a church, and with our blog, we hope to intentionally raise awareness of the diversity within our people groups, our cultural backgrounds, and our stories. Let’s navigate together.

TEAM PROFILES

AFROCENTRIC, AFROLATINA, COMPLEXITY, CULTURAL BACKGROUND, CULTURAL IDENTITY, CULTURE, DIVERSITY, DIVERSITY IN THE SDA CHURCH, DOMINICAN, HISPANIC, IDENTITY, INTEGRATION, LATINA, PUERTO RICAN, SDA CHURCH