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# Complex Identity in a Complex Church

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# INVESTIGATING DIVERSITY

Exploring Race, Gender, and Unity in the Adventist Church

**JANUARY 29, 2019 BY NATALIA PEREZ**

## Natalia Perez – Complex Identity in a Complex Church



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**