



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: United IN CHRIST - Ephesians 2:11 - 22

GETTING STARTED

What group of people do you feel the strongest sense of community with; family, coworkers, friend group, church, neighbors, etc.? What is it about that group that makes you feel so comfortable?

Share about a time you felt like an outsider to a group. Did you eventually break-in and get to know people?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

1. Why do you think Paul wanted the Gentiles (and us) to remember their former alienation from citizenship in God's kingdom?
2. How does the grace of God put to death disunity and unite people from all different cultures, backgrounds, and opinions?
3. Re-read vs. 19-22. Paul uses strong language here to describe the church and their connection to one another. What are some ways you can take steps toward getting to know and become better connected with others in the church that are different than you?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Ephesians 2:11-22]

What did Paul tell the Gentile believers to remember? (vs. 11)

What were the barriers between Jew and Gentile before Christ? (vs. 12-15)

What is the difference between Jesus "being our peace" and Jesus "bringing peace"? (vs. 14)

What did Jesus put to death in vs. 16 and how did He do it? (vs. 16)

What 2 kinds of reconciliation did Jesus accomplish on the cross? (vs. 16)

What are the 3 illustrations Paul uses to describe the New Community believers are called to? (vs. 19-22)

What is the foundation for Christ's new community? (vs. 20-22)

Questions that help us understand the significance of the text to us?

1. In what ways do you see Christians allowing their tribal affiliation/identity to define who they are more than their commitment to Christ?
2. Respond to the statement: "In order to be at peace with others, you need to be at peace with God." How have you seen this play out in your life?

3. How does this passage inform us on how to interact with others in our church or in our community who think/act/look/live different than us?

APPLICATION

- Is there a broken relationship in your life where unity is difficult to maintain on your own efforts? How does Ephesians 2:11-22 challenge and encourage you in that relationship?
- How can you allow God's grace to move you to start crossing dividing lines and pursue unified relationships?
- What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
- What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?