

Ephesians - Reconciliation

September 22, 2024

As you engage in this discussion, follow the Spirit's leading and share your thoughts as you reflect on the message. Work through the discussion guide by reading Scripture and reflecting on a couple of questions and points from the message.

Opening Questions

- What is one item you have on display in your home or office that you are happy to tell people about?
- 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?

Read the following scriptures together.

Ephesians 2:11-13

Therefore, **remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision”** (which is done in the body by human hands)– remember that **at that time you were separate from Christ**, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. **But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

Ephesians 2:14-16

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has **destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility**, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. **His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace**, and in one body to **reconcile both** of them to God through the cross, by which **he put to death their hostility.**

A FEW QUESTIONS TO PONDER DURING YOUR DISCUSSION:

- What do you learn about God in these passages?
- Is there a broken relationship in your life where unity is difficult to maintain on your own efforts?
- How do these passages challenge you to maintain unity in broken relationships?
- How can you allow God's grace to help you pursue unified relationships?
- How does the grace of God put to death disunity and unite people from all different cultures, backgrounds, and opinions?
- How can you model grace and forgiveness with people of different beliefs or lifestyles?

TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER AND WITH EACH OTHER.

- What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, or pray about as a result of engaging with this message?