

Racial Reconciliation

June 21, 2020

Ephesians 2:11-22

Warming Up

1. Share with the group a time when you may have experienced a “cross-cultural” worship experience. When and where was it? How did it impact you? What did you learn from others not like you?

Knowing the Gospel...

2. In verse 12 Paul encourages the Gentiles to remember that at one time they were “separated from Christ” and “without God”. What was your life like before you met Christ? How has your life changed since coming to Christ?

3. What do you think Paul means when he says that the gentiles were “far off” (v.13,17) and that they were now brought near? What do you think he means when he says Christ broke down “the dividing wall of hostility”? Think about the temple and who was allowed to enter/worship where. How has the blood of Christ (v.13) changed the relationship between the Gentiles and the Jews? See also John 10:16, Gal. 3:28, 6:15, Eph. 2:16, Col. 1:20-22.

4. In Ephesians 2:18, Paul refers to each person of the Trinity having a role in the reconciliation of Jew and Gentile, and in providing access to God. What is each member of the Trinity’s role in providing salvation? John 3:5-8, 1 Pet. 1:3, Acts 2:38, Rom. 6:23, Rom. 3:21-28, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 10:19-22, James 1:18, Heb. 9:14, Rom. 8:11.

Living the Gospel...

5. According to Scripture, where should a person find their true identity? (Gen. 1:27, Eph. 2:19-22, Gal. 3:28, 6:15). How should this inform our interactions with other people, even believers of different races, backgrounds, socio-economic levels?

6. In what specific ways can the church accurately reflect the “oneness” and “reconciliation” that Christ has accomplished on the cross, between people of different cultures and backgrounds?

7. Blood(lines) might be thicker than water but it’s not stronger than the cross. Have you ever met or worshipped with people in a different country or from a very different cultural context than you and yet because they were brothers and sisters in Christ, you felt right at home? How have you seen the bond in Christ be stronger than even blood relationships? Share your experiences with your group. How should this reality impact the priorities/value we place on different relationships in our lives?

Telling the Gospel...

8. How, as a Christian, can you explain to someone (nonchristian) what difference the gospel makes in how we value life (of all ages, races, backgrounds, cultures etc.)?

Next Week: Dear Church...Pergamum Rev. 2:12-17

