

Go. Live.

A Series on the DNA of our Church Family

4 – Church is Family

Ephesians 2.11-22

Outsiders -> Insiders (v.11-13)

- Law makes Outsiders (v.11-12)
 - Ostracized: Spiritually – socially – emotionally – physically – racially
- Grace makes Insiders (v.13)
 - Nobody gets born an insider – no special privileges
 - Each person must personally respond to the Good News of Jesus – the *only way* to be made an insider
 - When you do, you get a new family tree because God creates a new person
- Turning to one means turning from the other
 - You can't live your life based on law AND grace
 - You can't live to please your old life and your new one
 - Specifically, at some point, every person has to decide which family tree is ultimate (Luke 14.26)
 - At some point, Jesus will ask of you things that your family doesn't like – so whom will you disappoint?

Two -> one (v.14-16)

- Division was destroyed by His death (v.14-15)
 - The way to reconcile is for Jesus to be our peace – spiritually, racially, relationally
 - Don't substitute "getting along" and "tolerance" for reconciliation and peace – otherwise a low-grade hostility will remain
- A new kind of people is created (v.15-16)
 - A people for whom reconciliation is unifying and the hostility is dead
 - How do you know?
 - Are your relationships marked by peace or tolerance?
 - Is your attitude toward someone different than you genuine or false?
 - Can you genuinely wish God's best on another person (without specifying what that "best" would look like)?
- We are still blood-related (Mark 3.31-35) – even if we're not kin
 - The church is not a collection of families but one family
 - We are family – fulfilling Prov. 18.24 (friends who stick closer than brothers)

Displaced -> Belonging (v.17-18)

- Peace is the offer (v.17)
 - Shalom – what if church was the safest place on earth?
 - Obstacle: religion that declares one / some sins taboo
 - They are all taboo – no sin gets a pass
 - Therefore we all – those far and near – need peace
- Access is the offer (v.18)
 - We aren't just tolerated but we are welcomed
 - Obstacle: religion that differentiates or favors based on appearance
 - It's in one SPIRIT that we have our access, not our appearance or preference
- The Father makes the offer (v.18)
 - He is making a family because He is Father
 - He wants His family to reflect His love – and that kind of unifying love is magnetic
KAMBIZ
 - Groups -> Mission

How do we Go.Live.?

- Don't isolate – integrate (Groups)
- We need each other
 - Paul – Rom 1.11-12, Eph 3.18
 - Who knows how to tie a tie?

Questions for Discussion:

1. What is one thing that Jesus has asked of you that your family didn't like (be it a parent, spouse, etc.)? How did it turn out?
2. Paul says Jesus tore down the barrier that segregated races and spiritual standing before God. Why is it important to base human reconciliation on spiritual reconciliation? In the sermon, Trent said that the other options were getting along or tolerance or settling for affinity. What is the difference? What is an example of this from your own life?
3. Read Proverbs 18.24. What are examples of "family" that you can think of from your experience in our church? How have you experienced one who sticks closer than a brother / family?
4. The sense of "intimate belonging" that Trent talked about has two obstacles identified in the sermon. Which one have you experienced (or seen someone close to you experience) – a particular sin labeled as taboo or differentiation based on race / appearance?
5. Read Romans 1.11-12. Paul the Apostle said he needed the Roman Christians. In what ways do you need the church? What can you do that you cannot do without the church? Out of the "one another" commands in the New Testament, which one do you need to practice most right now?