

*Ephesians: Experiencing the Power of Jesus*

## **Healing Divisions**

Ephesians 2:11-22

### **OPENER**

How are you doing this week? What is one display of God's grace in your life? What is one area of stress that is challenging your trust in the Lord?

Where do you see a need for reconciliation in your life or your community?

### **MESSAGE NOTES**

Two resources for reconciliation found in Jesus:

1. The message of the Cross [the cross demolishes human dividing lines].
2. The Gospel-centered Church communities [the church demonstrates the unity inaugurated at the cross]

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22

1. What is the barrier between Jews and Gentiles as described here? How is that barrier, "a dividing wall of hostility (v. 14)," destroyed by Christ?
2. The purpose of the cross was for Jesus to "create in himself one new humanity out of the two (v. 15)." What is it about Jesus' death on the cross that changes people's hearts and moves us to love people – even people with whom we feel divided from?
3. Where do you see the need for reconciliation through the cross most needed in our society? How is the church to be a part of this reconciliation? How are we as individual Christ-followers a part of this reconciliation?
4. What does it mean to say that Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone of his church (v. 20)? What are tangible ways the church can demonstrate that Christ is the cornerstone as opposed to tradition or pastors or strong personalities?

5. Since the Spirit dwells among the community of believers in Jesus (v. 22), what benefits should be expected or sought out within the gathering of believers?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

6. In v 16, Paul writes “we regard no one from a worldly point of view.” Describe in several ways how our viewpoint of people changes when someone comes to know Jesus (v. 17). How does that change how we relate to people?
7. What is the ministry of reconciliation? Has it been given to you as well? If so, how are you fulfilling the role of Christ’s ambassador?

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

*(For groups, give time for everyone to think and then write down a response to the question below. Then have everyone share their response with the group.)*

What do you feel compelled to do in response to our Bible study? What might your Growth Group do as an outreach project in response to God’s vision for reconciliation?

### **PRAYING TOGETHER**

Have a time of prayer together for reconciliation. Pray for personal requests for reconciliation and for the church to lead the way into racial reconciliation, political reconciliation, and any other identified areas for reconciliation by group members.

### **MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD**

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:13

### **TIME ALONE WITH GOD READING GUIDE**

Day 1: Ephesians 2:11-20

Day 2: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Day 3: Romans 11:11-24

Day 4: Romans 3

Day 5: John 17:20-26

Day 6: Psalm 133

Day 7: Philippians 2:1-11