



Oughtibridge
Parish Church

Ephesians 2:11-18 – Reconciled

Discussion Questions

The talk on Sunday was on verses 11-22, but these questions only go up to verse 18 because we'll be considering verses 19-22 in more detail next week.

Pray for God's help as you turn to look at His word, to understand and respond rightly to what you'll see. Read through verses 11-18 slowly, carefully considering the words and their meaning.

1. Looking at verses 11-12, what are the two groups Paul has in view and how does he describe them?
2. Considering what it's like to be 'excluded' from something, what's the power of what Paul says in v13?
3. What has Jesus achieved for these two groups (v14)? How has he achieved it (v15a)? And why (v15b)?
4. If you were to draw a picture or diagram of what's described in verses 15b-16, what would it look like? If you prefer, you could actually draw it. Who is reconciled to who, and how?
5. Paul is commenting on a particular division in his day between Jews and Gentiles, who were very different to each other. What divisions could there be in our church today and how might the same truths apply?

6. In Ephesians we learn a lot about God's 'purpose' or 'intent'. How does v15b relate to 1:8b-10 and 3:10?
7. God's purpose for the local church is that diverse people be amazingly united, in a way unseen elsewhere in the world. What does it look like when a church finds its unity around:
 - (a) preferred musical style
 - (b) age group
 - (c) 'class' or socio-economic group
 - (d) ethnicity
 - (e) ...Jesus?
8. For all our differences, what distinction is there in how we relate to God (verses 17-18)?
9. How do these verses help us to see ourselves and each other rightly in our church family? How will you seek to relate to others in a way that promotes unity within diversity?

Pray

- Thank God for the wisdom and beauty of his plan to reconcile all people in Christ.
- Confess where we've focussed on our differences rather than the overwhelming unity we have in Christ.
- Pray for us to be a church deeply united within our diversity and ask for help to be part of that yourself.

A prayer you might like to use:

Heavenly Father, I praise you for brining me near through the blood of Christ and making me one of your people. Please would OPC be a church where we are deeply united because the most important thing in our lives is our shared relationship with you through Jesus. And may this unity show others the wisdom of your plan for the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.