

God's New People.

Ephesians studies **New Unity**



Key verse: Ephesians 2:14.
For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...



Big Idea: Christian unity results in us growing together in our understanding and appreciation of the love of Christ expressed at the cross.

Kick Off

"Birds of a feather flock together" ... when is this saying usually used?

Could it be used of Christians?

Language and race unite people to some degree. What other things unite people into groups?

STUDY

Read Ephesians 2:11-3:21.

1. Divisive name calling is happening in verse 11 between two groups. Who are the two groups? What is at the heart of the problem and how does Paul undermine the 'in group'?
2. Compare the former position of the Ephesians in v12 with their current position v13. What things cause them to be in such a poor position formerly and what changed?
3. How did the Law's 'commandments and regulations' cause such hostility between Jew and non Jew? And how did Jesus fix the problem?
4. Think carefully about vv 16-17. How was the Jewish position better than the non Jewish one? And how was it ultimately no better at all?
5. What is the current position of all believers everywhere vv18-22.

6. Notice in 3:1 how Paul breaks midsentence and goes off on a tangent vv2-13...
 - a. Why the tangent v2.
 - b. What mystery did God reveal to Paul v6?
 - c. How is the mystery going to continue to be made known and to whom v10?
 - d. And why therefore is Paul's current sufferings something not to be discouraged by?

7. How would you expect Paul to finish the sentence he started in v1? And how does he finish it in v14?

8. What is the focus of Paul's prayers for the Ephesians? What are the two big things Paul asks God to give them and why?

THINK AND APPLY

How highly do you value godly unity with other believers in the truth of Christ?

What personality traits do you need to work on in order to strengthen your unity with other Christians?

How honoured do you feel in knowing the Lord of the universe happens to have chosen you to fulfil his purposes and make known his manifold wisdom to authorities in the heavenly realms?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read Ephesians
4:1-16.**