

Date:10/11/2024

Preacher: Sam Toms

Sermon Title: - Ephesians – Reconciled in Christ and to each other

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:11- 3:13

Sermon Summary

In "Unity - Reconciled through Christ," the Apostle Paul's message in Ephesians 2:11-3:13 is a call for reconciliation and unity, not only between humanity and God but also among all believers. In a world fraught with division—politically, culturally, and socially—the church is meant to exemplify God's heart for restored relationships. Jesus is our peace, breaking down barriers of hostility and creating one new humanity that transcends cultural and ideological boundaries. True reconciliation involves surrendering personal rights and agendas, as modelled by Christ, who calls us to daily pick up our cross. In doing so, we foster a spirit of unity that reflects God's love to the world, making every believer a minister of reconciliation, tasked with restoring relationships within families, communities, and the church body.

Life Group Study Guide

Theme: Unity and Reconciliation through Christ

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-3:13 (Key Verses: 2:14-22)

Introduction

As believers, we are called not only to be reconciled to God but to live in peace and unity with one another. This study explores how we, as the body of Christ, can break down barriers, forgive, and foster unity in our communities, reflecting the heart of God.

Discussion Questions

1. **Icebreaker:** Think of a time when you felt genuinely united with a group or community. What made that unity meaningful to you?
2. **Scripture Reflection:** Read Ephesians 2:14-18.
 - How does Jesus' sacrifice create peace and unity between previously divided groups (e.g., Jews and Gentiles)?
 - In what ways does this "new humanity" challenge the divisions we see in our world today?

3. **Understanding Unity:** Discuss the analogy of a parent's joy when their children play peacefully together. How does this reflect God's desire for unity among His children?
 4. **Barriers to Unity:**
 - What barriers to unity exist in today's church? Think about divisions in doctrine, denominations, or even personal relationships.
 - How can we maintain unity without demanding conformity? What are the "non-negotiables" that should unify all believers?
 5. **Personal Reflection:** In verses 19-22, Paul describes believers as members of God's household.
 - What does it mean for you to be part of this household?
 - How might the church look different if every member prioritized peace and reconciliation?
 6. **Practical Application:**
 - Are there specific relationships in your life where you need reconciliation? What steps could you take this week to restore peace?
 - How does the idea of "surrendering our right to be right" challenge or encourage you in conflict situations?
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Spiritual Practice

- **Reflection and Confession:** Consider any unresolved conflicts or areas of division in your life. Spend time in prayer, confessing any hardness of heart, and asking God for guidance in steps toward reconciliation.
 - **Communion and Unity:** Take Communion together, focusing on Christ's sacrifice as the ultimate source of peace and unity. Reflect on Matthew 5:23-24—consider reconciling with anyone with whom you have conflict before partaking.
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Prayer Points

- Pray for a spirit of unity in the church and in each person's relationships.
 - Ask God to reveal any personal biases or divisive attitudes that need surrender.
 - Pray for the courage to take steps toward reconciliation, as ambassadors of Christ's peace.
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Challenge for the Week

Reflect on 2 Corinthians 5:18-20, where we're called to be ministers of reconciliation. Identify one relationship or group where you can actively pursue unity or offer forgiveness this week.