



UNIFIED: Cross the Bridge (Ephesians 2:11-22)

#4 in the series, The Game of LIFE: Ephesians Edition

October 4, 2009

Core Truth:

God removed all prejudice and reconciled all believers.

The Journey to Unity:

A. Who we were: separated from God and others. (2:11-12)

B. What Christ did: created a unified society. (2:13-18)

C. Who we are: (2:19-22)

* citizens in God's Kingdom

* members of God's family

* part of God's temple

The Implications for Today:

1. No one is too far from God to receive salvation.

2. River Valley must keep the wall down and the bridge up.

3. We never sacrifice truth for unity.

4. The only hope for a truly non-prejudice society is in Christ.

5. The unified church is the greatest draw for a desperate world.

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Getting to Know Each Other

1. Answer one or both of these: (a) What items do you currently have stored in the trunk of your car? (b) How do you get rid of a pesky telemarketer?

Getting Started

2. If you have ever been excluded from a group, explain how that felt.

3. How did the "unity" video from Sunday make you feel?

4. If you had been a Gentile prior to Jesus' death, how would you have handled the dividing wall in the Temple, which prevented the entrance of Gentiles on promise of execution?

Digging Deeper

5. Read Ephesians 2:14-18, noticing the words "hostility" and "peace." Why do you think people create hostility with prejudices? Why do you think the church, which God created into a unique society ("new man"), often struggles to stay unified?

6. What would be great for you if the local church or even all believers were truly unified and peaceful? What would be great for the world if this were so (check John 17:22-23)?

7. Ephesians 2:20-22 explains the unified church as a temple with four parts: foundation, cornerstone, stones, and the main inhabitant. How does this inform a church to establish unity and mission? How can we better live out the description in the metaphor?

8. Would you like to discuss the application of any of the "Implications for Today" from the message?

9. Ephesians 2:1-3 and 2:11-12 explain life when separated from God. Is it difficult for you to believe that non-Christians are in this state? Why? Assuming this is true (because it is), how can you use this inside info to witness better?