



REVEALED

The Mystery of Christ in Ephesians

Ephesians 2:11-22

June 28th, 2015

ON THE OUTS

(HOW JESUS CURED THE PROBLEM OF SPIRITUAL ALIENATION)

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. – Ephesians 2:11-17 (ESV)

1. The Problem: Ethnocentrism

2. The Solution: The Third Race

THE GOSPEL DOES TWO THINGS:

- DESTROYS THE COMPARISON APPARATUS
- RESHUFFLES THE IDENTITY MATRIX

3. The Cure: Substitution

YOU NEED TO LIVE HERE!

(HOW THE CHURCH IS THE BEST PLACE TO LIVE)

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.– Ephesians 2:18-22 (ESV)

1. The Necessity of the Church

... gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. – Ephesians 1:22-23 (ESV)

2. The Connectivity of the Church

HOW INVOLVED SHOULD I BE?

- PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY
- DEEPER HOSPITALITY
- CORPORATE SPIRITUALITY

3. The Vitality of the Church

JESUS AS MY PEACE & MY CORNERSTONE

I Will Live The Mystery by...

- Memorizing *Ephesians 2:18*
- Becoming a Christian without walls!
- Drawing closer to the life of the Church, God's holy dwelling.
- Accepting Jesus as my Peace & Cornerstone.

WALK THE TALK A Growth Group Guide

1. What is your memory of race wars in this country? What is your concern for racial tension right now? Have you ever felt like an outsider in a group?
2. What are some of the ways the Church can become a peacemaker to help tear down the walls of hostility in our culture? Why is it that we do not have the "option" of being ethnocentric/racist as followers of Christ?
3. What are some of the best ways to go deeper with one another as the Body of Christ? Read Acts 2:42-47. How can this snapshot of the church at its beginning help us find the essential ways to go deeper? Name some of the things they did together.
4. Pick one of the points or subpoints in the outline above and explain why it caught your attention the most.
5. What do you think you specifically need to do this week to start "living the mystery of Christ" out?