



**Ephesians: Masterpiece in Progress**  
**Derrick Shields**  
**“Unity in Diversity our Position”**  
**6/11/23**

**Key Verses:** Ephesians 2:1-22

**Key Thought:** That all of us Christians are— *alike*— saved by grace through Christ implies that we have been reconciled to one another, despite the differences which used to divide us.

**Points to Consider:**

- Christ Community Church's core value of Unity in Diversity is based on Ephesians 2.
- Despite deep-seated divisions among humanity, God always had a plan to create a new, unified humanity in Christ (which is the birthright of the church).
- 1-10: Paul reveals an underlying basis for equality among Christians: We are— *alike*— saved by grace through Christ. (Paul has Jews and Gentiles in mind, in particular.)
- 11-22: Paul concludes that— despite our secondary differences— Christians have been reconciled to one another through Christ, who broke down the “dividing wall” through His death (which might refer to a wall that kept Gentiles out of the inner courts of the temple), and— through His resurrection and ascension— Christ became the cornerstone of a new temple, of which we are all a part.
- Pastor Derrick illustrated these points with a clip from *Remember the Titans*, in which Coach Herman Boone seeks to unite the football team of a newly integrated school in Virginia in 1971. Coach Boone declares to a divided team of white and black players that HE is now their daddy and that THEY are now brothers!
- We must beware of elevating our secondary differences (e.g., ethnicity, gender, political affiliation) above our identity in Christ as the new humanity, which is primary.

**Discussion Prompts:**

- How does salvation by grace further support the truth of Christian equality (in particular, between Jews and Gentiles)?
- Why— and then how— are Christians “reconciled” to one another?
- What secondary differences have tempted you to avoid living out reconciliation with other Christians? Which do you think are most tempting for many others?
- What can you do to live out Christian reconciliation in places where it seems to be deeply challenged, or even unrealized?