

message summary

There is a quote that says “you will never find a perfect church. If you do, leave it alone because if you join it will cease to be perfect.” The truth is that there is no perfect church because the church is made up of imperfect people. In this passage we are going to discover two groups who are at odds with one another and fighting with each other. Paul uses the central message of Christ to teach on unity and reconciliation. Jesus dismantled the barriers that separated these two groups and reconciled them both to God creating a new harmonious humanity. Believers from diverse backgrounds are now regarded as fellow citizens in God’s kingdom, member from God’s household and living stones in a spiritual temple where God’s presence dwells through the Holy spirit. Lets take the time to read through **Ephesians 2:11-22** as Paul is going to teach that we are all equal at the foot of the cross.

observation

- What division is mentioned in verse 11, and who are the main parties involved?

- How does verse 13 describe the means by which Gentiles have been brought near to God?

- What is the significance of the terms "one new man" and "reconcile both to God" in verse 15?

interpretation

- What barriers exist between people today and what is the means by which the barriers come down?

- How does Jesus sacrifice bring unity amongst those who are at odds with one another?

- If the Bible calls the church a “household,” what should that mean for our churches?

application

- What practical steps can we take to foster unity and cooperation within our local Christian community?

- In what ways does the blood of Christ remind us of the price of reconciliation and the importance of extending grace and forgiveness to others?

- How can we cultivate an awareness of God's presence in our lives and in our collective worship as a “holy temple”?
