

BLUEPRINT LIFE NOTES

Ephesians 2:11-22 - October 22, 2017

Questions

1. The Jews of the first century did not associate with the Gentiles; in fact they called them names such as 'dogs', 'Gentile sinners' and as we see in our passage, 'the uncircumcised'. The division was real because of God choosing Israel as His People, but their attitude was wrong. They were supposed to be a light to the Gentiles. What are the five things that described the Gentiles and how would being in Christ cause those to be different?

2. Paul uses a metaphor of a body to describe the new thing God is doing in Christ. What are the main differences between the Jews and the Gentiles in verses 13-18? How was the law a barrier to both the Jews and the Gentiles for not only reconciliation to God but to each other.

3. Paul uses another metaphor, that of a 'building' to describe God's new creation in Christ found in verses 19-22. What type of building is this, what is it made of and what does it replace? What does it mean that Christ is the cornerstone – how could one tell if He is?

4. Most of us are Gentiles by birth and sons and daughters of Abraham by faith. Our issue is not necessarily being reconciled to Jewish believers, but perhaps with others in Christ – who are the people in our world that we need to be reconciled with? What unsavory names do we use to describe people not like us? What is a practical way to tear down these barriers?

Things You Can Do:

1. Begin praying for the one, or a community of people, for whom – if you are honest – you think will never be accepted by God.

2. Begin praying for one whom you have experienced the wall of hostility with.

3. What are the disunities, the hostilities we have just gotten so used to we hardly notice that they are there among us? Do one thing this week that moves in the opposite direction toward Christ.

4. Read the heart of Jesus regarding unity in Him – John 17:20-26.