



ephesians together

Review

Initial comments, questions, and reactions about the sermon?

Main Points:

1. **What is the problem with our identity?** Our identities leave us without hope and create hostility.
2. **What is the solution to our identity?** A new identity where Jesus provides our worth and value.
3. **How does this new identity change us?** It brings us into a new family where there is unity in diversity.

Reflect

Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Pray for the discussion.

Questions:

1. Who has made a big impact on you spiritually and why?
2. **Focus on verses 11-12.** The Jewish people found their identities in their obedience to God and the Law. As you think about your identity, what are the things that give you value and why? How do our identities create community with some people and hostility with others?
3. **Focus on verses 13-14.** Sean made the statement that Jesus is our peace and the cross is the great equalizer. What makes the cross an equalizer?
4. Sean shared a story about his trip to Costa Rica where he first saw the church as beautifully diverse, as well as united in Christ. What has been your experience with Christians that are different from you? What sort of impact did it have on you? If you haven't had one, why do you think that is?
5. **Focus on verses 19-22.** God has created us to be united in community with all believers - not just with people who are similar to us. What do you think are some of the primary tensions between believers? What makes it hard to be around people who are different than you? What are the benefits to being around people who are different from you?

Respond

Application.

Think about 3-5 people that you spend the most time with, not including your family or co-workers. Now think about their racial, ethnic, political or economic background. How diverse is your circle of friends? If it is not very diverse, how might you be more intentional about developing relationships with people that are different than you in some way?

Pray

Go around as a group and ask for prayer requests. Pray as a group together.

Dig Deeper

If you have time.

Read Galatians 2:11-16.

Main Points:

1. What does Cephas (also known as Peter) do that causes such a strong reaction from Paul? Why?
2. Based on the passage preached this weekend, why is Peter's action, as Paul says in v. 14 "*not in step with the truth of the gospel?*"
3. Where and how do you see people acting like Peter in today's church?
4. What's one way of actually living in step with the truth of the gospel? Describe the kind of life and what kind of church that is in step with the gospel.

Announcements

Please share with your group!

1. **Merge - Premarital Mentoring Kick Off:** September 30 from 4-6 p.m. Before you say "I do," we want to help prepare you for your life-long commitment. Whether you're engaged or simply thinking about marriage, join us for Merge, our pre-marital mentoring class. Sign up on our website.
2. **Baby Dedication - Parenting Meeting:** October 7 at 9 a.m. We have a special weekend for parents to dedicate their babies (2 and under) to Jesus. The parent meeting is required for the upcoming baby dedication service.
3. **Anxiety + Depression Workshop:** Anxiety and depression are not issues that we can avoid, and research shows where there is one, the other is often nearby. We can learn to deal with each in ways that are healthy and glorifying to God. **Every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. from Oct. 7–28**, we're offering a workshop designed to help you better understand the nature of anxiety and depression before equipping you to better cope with whatever life throws at you. Whether a personal battle or that of a friend or loved one, this class is for you.
4. **Mom's Together meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month.** The next gathering is this Tuesday, October 9 from 9:30-11:15 a.m.