



# ephesians together

## Review

Initial comments, questions, and reactions about the sermon?

### Main Points:

1. **They forgot *who they were*.** Remembering our past **keeps our heart soft** toward both God and others.
2. **They forgot *what Jesus did*.** Remembering His sacrifice and desire for unity **reconciles** us to God and others.
3. **They forgot *who they are*.** Remembering we are part of God's family **inspires** us to grow in our faith and be ambassadors for Christ in all areas of our lives.

## Reflect

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

### Questions:

1. **Share a story of forgetfulness.** What was a time you forgot something important?
2. **Focus on verses 11-12.** There was great hostility between Jews and Gentiles. What caused their division? Where do you see or experience hostility or division among Christians today? Why do think that happens? Who are two groups of people today like Jews and the Gentiles?
3. **Focus on verses 13-14.** Caleb talked about how the grace of Jesus keeps our heart soft towards each other. How does the grace of Jesus do that? Where do you wish your heart was softer, and to what kind of people?
4. **Look at verse 18.** What is the reason for unity in this verse? Then think through everything that Christians have in common, and list out all the reasons we have to live in unity and oneness together.
5. **Focus on verse 19-22.** God says to each of us welcome home, welcome home. Do you feel like you belong in the church and with God's people? What are some reasons you feel like you don't belong? How do we help people feel the truth of God's words to them?

## 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? What are the benefits of pursuing those who are different from you?

## 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?
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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.** The next gathering is this Tuesday, October 9 from 9:30-11:15 a.m.