

Ephesians 2:11-22

What do they need to know? We are all part of God's family
Why do they need to know it? Christ died for unity, we should to.
What do they need to do? Reconcile with their brothers and sisters in Christ
Why do they need to do it? So God is glorified instead of ourselves
How can I help them remember? We need to be for them not against them.

Me

Are you deaf story from SBC?

Get on Trolley, just had an amazing message from David Platt and amazing worship. You know when God moves and you feel it! One of those. We are on the trolley just talking to each other having fun when this old man looks at the girls I am talking with and says "what are you, deaf?" What? We just got out of this, the man had a nametag from the convention on and he was there also. Then we get this? I was in shock! Otherwise I would've been in trouble. So I said Jesus loves you bro. This guy did not have the joy of the Lord in his heart. Not sure what his pacemaker was doing. Do you know someone like that? Someone who just seems to always be against you? Many people like that are the reasons we have so many different types of Christianity in the world.

We

Do you ever wonder why we have so many different types of Christianity? Presbyterians, Lutherans, Catholics, Episcopalian, Baptist, Methodist, etc. We all believe different parts of the Christian faith in differing ways. However, don't we all have Christ at the center of those beliefs? Yet, we outcast people who aren't like us. That's why we have so many denominations, black churches, white churches, asian churches, international churches, etc. Sometimes we even make fun of another group, don't we? We feel like people aren't able to act a certain way or believe certain things and unity is gone. Before all of our divisions of churches there were just two: Jews and Gentiles.

Well that's what was happening in Ephesus. We had the Jews who were cursing out the Gentiles because they weren't the "chosen people." They wanted to keep Jesus all for himself and their pride led them to believe that they had to follow a set of rules in order to belong to Jesus and be unified with Him. They were furious that Gentiles wanted to be part of the sacred Jewish family. So they went back to the law which are the 5 first books of the Bible also called the Torah that Moses wrote. These Jews would quote that the Gentiles are not God's chosen people and can not have salvation at all! They can not have the same hope we can have, they can not be one with us for they are the filth of this world, the lowliest person, the people who have no law therefore they should have no God!

We know this person don't we? The person who says, did you read your Bible today? Do you really love God? Oh, you watched a rated R movie, you need to repent of that. You had a sip of a drink that had alcohol in it! You need to be washed in the blood of Jesus for that one! (what about mouthwash?) Or maybe that person tonight is you...you've kept yourself locked in a cage by what Matt Chandler calls Moral Deism. You feel like you have to follow these rules in order to be loved by God, to be owned by God, to be acknowledged before Him. Paul is talking to you specifically as well as the rest of us. Because we have all been that person before...

God

v. 11 - Romans 9:4 - They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children.^[b] God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises.

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v. 15 - Matthew 5:17: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

You: So What? Do you have all your relationships in check? Or is there someone you need to reconcile with? Christ came to stop people from being divided. He wants all people to be united under Him. So what if someone offended you at church, go back. So what if the pastor said something you didn't like, go back. So what if you tried to serve and got hurt, go back. Are you willing to live life separated from the body and on your own prideful strength that does nothing but shame God? Where is your heart in that? No one, not even you, gets glorified in that way!

Now What?

Paul gives us a picture of what we were like before we knew Christ in a real way and what it means to live in unity with Christ. If we truly call ourselves followers of Christ then we seek to please God and give Him the glory. As shown here our relationships are a big part of that. When we are at strife with someone who has the same faith as us, we are stealing glory from God and saying we are in control God, not you. You sent Christ to unify us? So what. I'm smarter than you, I can't deal with this person and you don't have the power to fix it. Is there someone you need to reconcile with? Someone who you just can't get along with. Is Christ not bigger than your petty little argument? Can you not trust Christ, the person who came to reconcile all people to Him, to help mend a relationship that is hurting your unity with Christ?

But Rahul, you don't understand what this person did to me. Are you alive? Even Christ asked forgiveness for the people murdering them! How can you be so prideful that a relationship can create a rift between you and the church or you and a person or you and God?

We

We have been reconciled to God as Gentiles with the Jews and are now all part of God's Kingdom. We are citizens in His land, part of the body of Christ and have been adopted into His family. When we work together, pray together, serve together, praise God together, we make Christ as the cornerstone of our lives that point to the grace of God more than anything in our lives. Too many people leave the church because of other Christians. Is there someone who used to come but now doesn't just because you had a "different opinion" than them? We need to be reconciled in Christ because He shed His blood for all of us to experience the grace that God gives. A grace that we need to also give. When that happens we can bring others who don't know the grace of God into our family. Then we rejoice when people are getting saved because of the work of God in our lives.