



MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2

Read Eph. 2:11-18

Sermon Summary:

In Ephesians 2:11-22 we have further proof of the power of God and the victory of Christ at the cross. In the first ten verses of Ephesians 2 we saw how God's love and mercy rescued us from our dead state and made us alive in Christ. In this second section, Paul points to yet another victory of Christ at the cross, namely, his killing of all racial, ethnic and social divisions! Where is this unity and harmony to be displayed? In the church. Paul says "a new humanity" was created in Christ. By God's Grace we must endeavour to live out this new humanity for all to see.

Discussion:

1. How did Jesus' life and death bring peace to both Christian Jews and believing Gentiles (Eph. 2:17-18)?
2. In what ways have you experienced this peace?
3. Note that Christ not only brought peace (reconciliation) "vertically" between each group and God, but also peace and reconciliation "horizontally" between the two groups. In the GTA and CIT there are a number of diverse racial, ethnic and language groups, how has God changed your concepts and/or relationships with Christians whose racial, ethnic and/or linguistic identity differs from your own?
4. In Eph. 2:8 Paul says we are saved by grace. What does grace have to do with victory over racial distinctions/divisions? Why is grace necessary?
5. Besides racial, ethnic and social divisions, what other differences cause people to be divided or separated?
6. Why is it so important that the church display Christ's victory over all divisions?

7. How does or should the church display Christ's victory over all divisions/distinctions?

End with Prayer.

- Pray that the realization of our being in Christ would be so real as to change our life.
- Pray for any needs of people in your group.