

# GRACE BIBLE CHURCH LORTON

## The Cross & Ethnic Reconciliation

**Ephesians 2:11-22**

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Only Jesus produces ethnic reconciliation, and for those who are reconciled to each other in Him we must now look and live like God's new multi-ethnic humanity for His glory and by the Spirit.

*Note: Please see the handout "Defining Our Terms".*

### **Ephesians Background**

Ephesians is written by Paul to the church in Ephesus, which was primarily made up of Gentile (which means, "non-Jewish") believers. Ephesians is made up of 2 clear parts: chapters 1-3 and chapters 4-6. Chapters 1-3 is all about gospel truths and chapters 4-6 is all about gospel conduct; how we are supposed to live as a *result* of the gospel truths in chapters 1-3.

### **1. People are segregated without Jesus (11-12)**

Sin is *the* fundamental reason why people hate God and hate each other. The reason why there is sinful racism, ethnocentrism, and partiality between people is because there is sin in the hearts of people.

### **2. People are reconciled by Jesus (13-18)**

Peace between ethnic Jews and ethnic Gentiles is found only in Jesus Himself, through what He accomplished on the cross. People are reconciled *by* Jesus and the peace they experience together *is* Jesus.

### **3. How the new reconciled multi-ethnic humanity of God is to look and live (19-22)**

Paul uses 3 metaphors to describe how God's new reconciled multi-ethnic humanity is to look and live.

1. "fellow citizens" (19),
2. "the household of God" (19), and
3. "a holy temple" (21).

#### **Questions to Consider**

1. What is at the root of racism, ethnocentrism, and sinful partiality?
2. According to these verses, what was the purpose of the death of Jesus?
3. Why must we be reconciled to God first, if we are to be reconciled to others?
4. Before going through this passage, how would you have described the people of God? How about now, in light of Ephesians 2:13-22?
5. Who, in God's new humanity who you are already reconciled to in the mind of God, are not actually reconciled with and need to pursue reconciliation? Second question, how should the gospel of reconciliation challenge and enable you to seek peace and friendship with others in God's new humanity?
6. Based on these verses, where do you need to pursue change in your thinking and in your behavior, by the Spirit's power, to live out your reality of already being a part of God's new reconciled multi-ethnic humanity?