

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 10/6/2019

Ephesians 2: 11-22 Ephesians: The Gospel for All of Life

by Drew Hunter

*Healing our Divisions Through Jesus*

### Overview

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The Gospel can bring unity to social divisions that are based on religious, generational, gender, political, class, and ethnic barriers. Jesus brings harmony to divided people through the cross and in the church. In the book of Ephesians we have learned that God's purpose in history is to demonstrate his power through reconciling people to himself and people to one another. This passage addresses how our human divisions can be healed through Jesus.

1. Division (v. 11-12) Like the Jewish and Gentile division in the first century, our cultural polarizations are also rooted in pride.
2. The Peace (v. 13-18). We have been brought near by the blood of Christ. The cross uproots pride for all have been equally condemned and equally saved.
3. The Result (v. 19-22). In Christ we are identified as fellow-citizens, God's household, and God's temple.

### Quotations

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*"We are enriched when we pursue friendship with people who are different than us. I'm enriched through my relationships with women. I'm enriched from relationships with people from Ethiopia and Sierra Leone and Asia and Mexico and Honduras. I'm enriched by my relationships with people who are far more wealthy than I am, and also with those who have also struggled to even make it financially. Some of you may have not felt welcome in our church for one of those reasons. Maybe because of your financial situation, or your job, or your age, or your skin color. That grieves me. It shouldn't be that way.*

Drew Hunter

### Understanding & Application

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- 1) This passage points to the cross of Jesus Christ as a means to healing divisions. How does the cross do that?
- 2) Briefly explain the most troubling or significant divisions in our culture that need to be healed. How can the Gospel address these in order to bring unity?
- 3) Have you ever been involved in intentionally seeking to break down barriers or divisions through Christ and his cross? How did it come about?
- 4) How is racism "anti-Gospel"?
- 5) In what ways do you see Zionsville Fellowship recognizing the need for healing of divisions? What attempts do you think are being made?
- 6) Are there opportunities before us that our church should pray about and consider?
- 7) One application of this passage is to personally address a division or barrier that exists between you and another person or group? Are you being convicted to do that?

