



Introduction to Ephesians 2:11-22 Sunday, November 5, 2017
Pastor Don Denyes

God desires people not only to be reconciled to Him, but to be reconciled to one another as well. Our first and greatest need is to be reconciled to God. If we are not saved (2:8-9), then we are still dead in our trespasses (2:1-3) and headed for eternity under the wrath of God. But God has not saved us in isolation. Even the famous passage in 2:8-9 is referring to “you” in a plural sense. So, it might as well read, “for by grace, y’all have been saved through faith.” God desires sinners to repent and turn to Him, but His plan all along was not to have a privatized salvation but a common salvation—to save a group of people.

While it is absolutely necessary to emphasize each individual’s need to be saved, we must quickly make the connection to emphasize their need to become a part of the Christian community. God’s grace is more clearly magnified because many are saved. Not only this, as will become evident in later chapters in Ephesians, but God’s design for the salvation of human beings was that He might demonstrate His wisdom and power in saving people of all different kinds so that His glory would be displayed in the unity of the Church (3:8-10; 4:4-6; 6:23-24).

Context

As Pastor Don noted, Ephesians can be roughly broken up into two main halves. The first half (chapters 1-3) focuses on indicatives (which *indicate* what is already true). The second half (chapters 4-6) focus on imperatives (which have to do with what *ought* to be true). But here, in the midst of this vast section of indicatives—indicating what God has done for us in Christ, we find the very first imperative, “remember” (v. 11). The fact that the imperative is telling us to remember means it has less to do with what we do and more to do with reflecting on what God has already done. May that be true of us...

Discuss

- 1) Pastor Don talked about the many things in our society that divide people (race, wealth, politics, etc.). What are some of the most prominent things that you've experienced that divide people?

- 2) The main thing Paul wants to get across in this passage is for Christians to remember how they used to be alienated from God and alienated from one another. What causes us to forget those things?

- 3) Pastor Don also mentioned how the image of making one new man out of two (v. 15) is similar to the image of two people becoming one flesh in marriage (Eph. 5:31). How, in your experience, is church life like a marriage?

- 4) There are three images in this passage to explain the concept of our common union in Christ: citizens in a kingdom (v. 19); members of a family/household (v. 19); and parts of a building in which God dwells (v. 20-22). Which of those most strongly resonates with you and helps you think about living out unity with other Christians?

- 5) What are some ways you can live out this unity of the gospel that Paul talks about? (Think about your current obstacles and how you might overcome them)