

## Dr. Paul's Prescription for Unity

Ephesians 2:11-22

The issue of diversity in the early church presented huge challenges to the young believers. Ethnicity was a major dividing line confronted by the Council of Jerusalem (see Acts 15). Diversity won the day – Jews and Gentiles had equal standing in the church. The application of the unity principles were addressed in every new church as the Gospel spread its' influence. Ephesus was no exception.

### I. THE PROBLEM - SEGREGATION (2:11-14)

- 1) "Name Calling" (vs.11)
  - The circumcision vs the uncircumcision
  
- 2) Presenting symptoms (vs12)
  - Christless – separate from Christ
  - Stateless – excluded from citizenship
  - Friendless – foreign to covenants
  - Hopeless – without hope
  - Godless – without God
  
- 3) The blood of Christ brings everyone near to God (vs.13)

Think about this...

↑↓ When the spiritual separation between a person and God is solved, our heart moves closer to God's heart.

↔ When the relational separation between people is solved, they move closer to embrace each other.

### II. THE CURE – RECONCILIATION (2:14-18)

- 1) Jesus provides peace (14-16)
  - Destroyed the visible barrier – as seen in the Temple design – Court of the Gentiles (14)
  - Destroyed the emotional barrier – centuries of ethno-centrism, hatred, pride (14)
  - Destroyed the spiritual barrier – the Law is abolished by His sacrifice (15)

His purpose?

- To create a new man made up of Jews and Gentiles (15)
- To create a new body - His reconciled church (16)

- 2) Jesus preached peace (17,18)
  - To those who were far away (Gentiles)
  - To those who were near (Jews)
  - Equal access to the Father by one Spirit (see also 1 Corinthians 1:22, 23)

### III. THE RESULT – A GATHERED PEOPLE (19-22)

- 1) New identity (19) – fellow citizens
- 2) New security (19) – family relationships
- 3) New impact (21) – residing Holy Spirit