

The Only Real Unity

Ephesians 2:11-18

- I. “Brought Near” in Christ – Our first need for unity is to be united with Christ (Ephesians 2:11-13).
 - A. The animosity between Gentiles and Jews stemmed from their separation from God (2:11-12).
 - B. Through the cross, people of every kind are brought into an intimate relationship with God (2:13).
 - Those who long for unity are actually longing for Christ.
 - Is my true identity “in Christ” or is my identity in something about me?
- II. “Made one” with each other – We are united to all believers as part of the body of Christ (Ephesians 2:14-18).
 - A. The cross abolished the ceremonial laws that kept Jews and Gentiles separate (Ephesians 2:14-15a).
 - B. God’s purpose was to form a new single body – the church – through the cross (Ephesians 2:15b-16).
 - The cross is what unifies us. We cannot expect religious unity when there isn’t agreement about the gospel (ecumenism).
 - How do I respond when God puts me in situations with believers who are out of my comfort zone?
 - How does race, economics or culture affect the way I regard other believers and the world?
 - C. The cross brings spiritual peace and equal access to God for all who believe (Ephesians 2:17-18).