



Content taken from The Book of Ephesians; 2016; J.D. Greear; RightNow Media

Week 4

Opening Prayer

Opening Table Discussion:

1. Think of a group that you're a part of: a professional organization, a sports team, or a hobbyist community. Or maybe just some people you hang out with.
2. What group are you thinking of? Why do you belong to it?
3. How does your group feel about "outsiders"? What does it take for someone to become part of your group?

Review

Discuss the following from last week's lesson

Four Key Takeaways on Salvation (from Ephesians 2:[8-10])

Cause of salvation _____

Means of salvation _____

Effects of salvation _____

Promise of salvation _____

Today's Scripture Passage

Consider- In this session, we're going to look at the way the gospel tore down the walls that separated different groups of people from each other. In Jesus, His people are all one.

- **Read: Ephesians 2:11-3:13** and jot down below any words that stand out to you.

Video 4

Discussion Questions

1. What do you make of the hunger for *spirituality* in our culture today?
2. React to the following: Do you believe that you can be a very good Christian without attending The Church? (What did 81% of North Americans say?)
3. Based on Ephesians 2:11-13:
 - a. Who is Paul addressing here?
 - b. Why does he specifically address the Gentiles here?
 - c. How do you think they felt when Paul made such an obvious attempt to welcome them?
4. Do we have any divisions in our society that are anything like the division between Jews and Gentiles?

React to the following from J.D. in today's video:

"Most of us have things in our minds that separate the good people from bad people. Religious/non-religious. Generally moral/immoral. Educated/illiterate. Successful/unsuccessful. And we see ourselves and others like us as on the inside of the wall of good people, and others on the outside. Paul says, 'No.' There is only one category of people: sinners. Everyone is on the outside. There are no 'good people and bad people'; there's no 'winners and losers'; there's no 'people who have it together' and 'dysfunctional people'; there's only bad, dead, dysfunctional rebels who desperately need the salvation of Jesus."

Do you agree? Disagree? How would you describe the human tendency to divide ourselves into groups?

5. What is Jesus called in Ephesians 2:14? In what way is that true?
6. Personal Application Point: Looking through verses 14–18, how many things can we find that Jesus has done or is doing?

7. React to what J.D. said about creating “one new humanity.”

“In Jesus’ resurrection He has created a whole new race of humanity. ...You see, Jesus wasn’t raised from the dead as a Jew, or Gentile, or a white man or black man or Hispanic or Asian. He was raised as a completely new man. He started what some have called a ‘third race. ...Now, that doesn’t mean you cease to be black or white or Asian or Arab, just that your primary identity is who you are in Christ, rather than the color of your skin or nationality of your parents. ...The unity we find in [our] salvation should be greater than any of the cultural preferences or experiences that divide us. We’re one race: human. With one problem: sin. With one solution: Jesus. And one hope: the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.”

How do you feel about our new humanity? Does J.D.’s explanation make sense to you? Do you agree?

8. *Read Ephesians 2:19–22 slowly.*

- a. What is the architecture of this new temple? What is it made of? What is it built on?
- b. When Paul says, “You are no longer foreigners,” or “You too are being built together,” whom is he talking to?

Last Word

9. How involved should we be in the church?
10. What does a healthy church look like?
11. What does a healthy church do?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank You for inviting us, Your Church, to engage all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Help us to build bridges instead of walls. Help us to reach outward instead of focusing inward. Guide us in this through Your Word and Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.