

ULC Sermon Study Resource
Crisis to Renewal // Renewal to Community
Pastor Marcus Lane
September 19th, 2021

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is the best team you've been a part of and why did/ do you like it?

Reading: Ephesians 2:11-22

Outline:

- I. *Community renewed by the gospel...* Breaks down division (vs. 11-13)
 - a. Paul addresses the stark division between Jews and Gentiles by showing them how it was the actions of Jesus rather than actions of a ceremony that united them all
 - b. Laws that divided the two groups were no longer in the way of following God
Q: What were some of the main things that divided Jews and Gentiles?
- II. *Community renewed by the gospel...* Ends hostility (vs. 14-18)
 - a. The death and resurrection of Christ points to an end of actions and attitudes that separated and divided these two groups
 - b. In his reconciliation, we gained peace with God that in turn allows us to enjoy peace with one another
Q: In what ways did God unite Jews and Gentiles?
- III. *Community renewed by the gospel...* Exists to make Jesus known (vs. 19-22)
 - a. Being united in Christ means we are each a part of the temple that praises the Lord. In doing so, we can individually and collectively be a dwelling place for the Spirit
 - b. By coming together and being a place of praise, people will recognize that we are where they can find Jesus
Q: What is the goal of being a unified people?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) In what ways have you experienced community or it's affects in your life?
- 2) What are the great aspects and challenging aspects of being in a community?
- 3) What comes from having hostility in or towards our communities?
- 4) How can analyzing the way we view ourselves and our sin improve the relationships we have with those we differ with?
- 5) How does the gifts of God help us strive towards unity daily?

Suggestions for further study:

- Psalm 133 **Q: How does the role of Christ's mediators help destroy division?**
- John 17:20-23 **Q: Why is being unified important to our Christian mission?**

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, Since you have called us to yourself in Jesus Christ, we ask that you continue to work your renewing power in us and let your spirit rest in us. That we would live not only as those who have been united to you, but that we would live also as those who have been united to one another. That we would seek to love, serve, and lay down our lives for one another, and live as a witness to your power. Help us to live as witnesses to what you have done for the world through your son Jesus. God, we ask this all in your name. Amen.