



KINGDOM CULTURE

A Culture of Unity

Small Group Discussion Notes

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them? Spend some time discussing the response to the message and the issues that it raised.

Read Ephesians 2.11-22

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. **17** He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

- v12. Paul is writing to Gentile believers. Why is it important that a discussion on unity begins with a reminder that we too were originally outsiders?
- The history of the church is littered with division, dissension, disunity and denominationalism. Agree or disagree?
- v15. Why is there a connection between Jesus setting aside the *law* and creating a new *humanity*? How does law generate hostility? How does the Spirit bring peace? Are we guilty of putting law before humanity?
- Take a look at the imagery of household and temple in verses 19-22. What strikes you most about these two pictures? What is the key factor that keeps the unity building from falling to pieces? What does it mean for God's Spirit to dwell in our togetherness and what might this look like?

Pray together in 2s and 3s. Confess the ways in which we have been part of the disunity problem and pray that we each experience a joining together with brothers and sisters and a rising together as God's temple. Pray for a greater experience of the Spirit of Unity and the Prince of Peace.