



THE CAMPUS CHURCH  
LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND PEOPLE

## Small Group Discussion Resource

One – Studies in Ephesians

**One Blood** Ephesians 2:11-22

As usual, spend some time praying for the Holy Spirit to illuminate this passage for you. Then read the passage (Ephesians 2:11-22) and share things that seem to catch your attention.

1. Describe a time when you witnessed discrimination in the church. How did it make you feel?
2. React to this quote: "The problem of fences has grown to be one of the most acute that the world must face. Today there are all sorts of zig-zag and criss-crossing separating fences running through the races and people of the world. Modern progress has made the world a neighbourhood: God has given us the task of making it a brotherhood. In these days of dividing walls of race and class and creed we must shake the earth anew with the message of the all-inclusive Christ, in whom there is neither bond nor free, Jew nor Greek, Scythian nor barbarian, but all are one." Phillip Gibbs
3. Sometime we think that the Bible is out of touch with our modern world. Brainstorm on things and issues that are the same generation after generation throughout the ages.
4. Why do you think that many churches attract like kinds in terms of ethnicity, financial status and political persuasion? Is this a good thing or a bad thing?
5. Read again verses 11-12 and 19-22. Review this chart that explains these verses. Can you recall when you moved from one side to the other as you trusted Christ?

Before giving their lives to Jesus	After giving their lives to Jesus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Separated from Christ</li><li>• Excluded from the Jewish common wealth</li><li>• Foreigners to the covenants</li><li>• Without hope and without God</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No longer strangers</li><li>• No longer aliens</li><li>• Fellow citizens in God's kingdom</li></ul>

6. Reflect on the idea of "One sacrifice applied to many people – A vertical reconciliation" Look again at verse 13. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
7. Our sin is what had separated us from God. If you are bold enough, read through all of Isaiah 59. Note the well-crafted imagery of these words. What stands out to you?
8. Our sin alienated us from God, but because of the blood of Jesus, shed for all people, anyone can be reconciled to God and become a fully functioning member of his new community. Reflect on verse 14 and 15

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

9. Consider this phrase – *Jesus has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility*. Read Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38 and Luke 23:45. In your mind's eye describe what you think this looked like and the reaction of the Jewish priests.
10. React to and reflect upon this statement: *When Jesus died, that barrier between God and mankind was torn in two. God the Father was making a dramatic statement about the efficacy of the sacrifice of his son. A new era had arrived, where anyone could have access to God. The inner courts and outer courts were dismantled, and men, women, slave, free, Jew or gentile, had direct access to the father through Jesus Christ. Up until that point if one wanted to get close to God they had to fulfill all sorts of rules and regulations. But Jesus creates a new covenant, through his blood revealing that anyone who puts their faith in him can have clean and unparalleled access to God the father. The blood of Christ has brought all of us near to the heart of God. No longer did we have to jump through 47 religious hoops to earn God's favour.*
11. Check out what Paul says in Galatians 6:14-16 *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. <sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule*
12. Reflect on this phrase and explain what it means: *Many people, one blood line - A horizontal reconciliation.*
13. Reflect on this application point: The body of Christ needs to exemplify and personify a spirit of reconciliation. Why is this so important?
14. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 15:11-20
15. Anytime we speak about racism and injustice and prejudice, we immediately feel the controversy and tension. And as Christians we have one of two reactions. One, we can take the position of our culture and political party and simply parrot back what culture is saying without even giving it any thought. The difficulty with this response is that our culture is very confused at this point and actually often very wrong. Our ethic is not to be determined by what is politically correct but rather by what the Bible says. This is actually a dangerous option. But the second option is equally dangerous. The second option we often take is to bury our head in the sand, and not say anything at all about these issues for fear of creating conflict. Most of us take this option of being silent on these current issues. Why is silence a problem? What is the best way to help our culture deal with issues of division and racism?
16. React to these comments by a person at The Campus. Agree/disagree? What are the challenges you face in being an ambassador of reconciliation?  
*In this political world... the oppressor is purely evil and can never redeem or reconcile himself. Similarly, the oppressed can do no wrong, can never be criticized and are always 'right.' The oppressor is purely evil and can never redeem himself or be reconciled to others. You can see how this man-centered viewpoint is actually a recipe for racial strife, resentment, hatred and possibly even punishment (of the oppressor). This idea is also known as CRT (or critical race theory) and is pushed hard in North American schools now. With a false view of man, a false view of God and an utterly false prescription for the problem, it only fosters further resentment and division by all races who are stuck in this kind of belief system. Sadly, this is the approach taken by most western governments now. Even so-called 'conservative' ones.*

*To try and bring this full circle, I would encourage sensitivity to those who may not necessarily be 'racist,' but are frustrated by how the secular Left has used DEI, (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion), CRT and multiculturalism as man's political solution to a problem, but in reality, just want to destroy all influence of Christianity in Canada based on the accusation of it fostering 'racism and white supremacy.' By contrast, a truly biblical approach to the multiracial society in which we find ourselves, is one based on true equality, true freedom, true forgiveness and true reconciliation of all peoples. It does not elevate one over the other. All are equal in their sinfulness and equal in the free gift of salvation for those who believe and repent and follow Him.*

17. Read what Martin Luther King Jr. said of the church's reaction to controversial issues. (And remember that this was written during a time of great segregation even among churches).

*So often the contemporary church is a weak and ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is the arch defended of the status quo. Far from being disturbed by the presence of the church, the power structure of the average community is consoled by the church's silent, and often even vocal, sanction of things as they are. But the judgement of God is upon the church as never before. If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*  
What are your thoughts about this?

18. Reflect on the truth of 1 Peter 3:15-16. What stands out to you about these verses?

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. 1 Peter 3:15-16*

Spend some time praying for unity amidst our diversity at The Campus Church.