

# Sermon-Based Discussion

Date 10/9/22 Dustin Sauder

Watch the sermon at [manheimbic.org/sermon](http://manheimbic.org/sermon).

# Ephesians



## BIBLE PASSAGES

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 (NLT) <sup>11</sup>Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. <sup>12</sup>In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope. <sup>13</sup>But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. <sup>15</sup>He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. <sup>16</sup>Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death.

<sup>17</sup>He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. <sup>18</sup>Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

<sup>19</sup>So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. <sup>20</sup>Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. <sup>21</sup>We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. <sup>22</sup>Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

**Additional Scriptures: Galatians 3:28, John 4:1-26, Ephesians 5:14**

## Group Discussion & Life Challenge

Use these notes as discussion prompts for your group, or in your personal time with God.

### Connect:

Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, fellowship.

### Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

### Challenge:

Dive into God's Word. Use these discussion questions. Learn from each other's insight.

1. Share a big idea that someone had that you were sure would never happen. Share a big ministry idea that someone had that may or may not have worked.
2. Read Ephesians 5:14, what might "wake up, sleeper" mean to you?
3. Insiders welcoming Outsiders as Insiders:
  - a. Give an example of a time you felt like an outsider.
  - b. Give an example of a time you extended a hand, welcoming an outsider as an insider.
  - c. What could you do better, to understand the struggle an outsider faces, and meet them where they are?
4. "Ethnocentrism" is the opinion that one's own way of life is natural or correct.
  - a. Give an example of a time when you didn't understand another group's norms or behaviors.
  - b. Have you seen anyone benefit from increasing conflict - tapping into a group's ethnocentrism?
  - c. What's an example of two groups coming together for the mutual advantage of all, instead of us vs. them? (study Acts 6:1-7 as an example)
5. Thoughts on Tony Evan's statement:
  - a. Through Christ we have Unity – not uniformity
6. What comes to mind, as you consider the differences of worship expressions, faith practices and beliefs in our church and even your own small group? This was shared during the sermon - regarding differences.
  - a. they will show you a unique perspective on God
  - b. they will drive you toward digging deeper into Scripture
  - c. they will teach you to love in spite of differences.
7. The wall mentioned in verse 14, was made of actual granite and marble, dividing the two people groups. What comes to mind as you think of tearing down barriers dividing people today?
8. Is there one people group that is often left out, overlooked, that you'd like to connect with, learn more about?

### Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

### Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS