

Sermon Outline

God's Purpose for His Church – Unity out of Diversity (Ephesians 2:11-3:11)

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Main Idea: This week guest pastor David Devenish looks into Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus and brings insight into one of God's great and glorious purposes for his people—unity out of diversity.

Sermon Outline:

1. Introduction
2. Steps Towards the Grand Conclusion (2:11 – 22)
 - Step 1: We were all excluded and under the judgment of God
 - Step 2: Those far away, now near
 - Step 3: United in Christ
 - Step 4: Now peace has been established through the Prince of Peace
 - Step 5: Free access to God to worship, pray and experience his presence
 - Step 6: No longer aliens to each other but fellow citizens (One new nation under God)
 - Step 7: One new family
 - Step 8: A new temple
 - Step 9: By grace we have this revelation
3. Practical Outworking

Key Text/Quotes:

"The building of the body is inextricably linked with his intention of filling the universe with his rule, since the church is his instrument in carrying out his purposes for the cosmos." Peter O'Brien

Fellowship Starters:

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-3:11 and open in prayer.
2. John 3:16 and many other portions of Scripture make clear that the end goal of our salvation is eschatological—future focused. Having said that, the passage before us speaks to the significance that the gospel of Jesus Christ is to have on God's purposes for humanity on earth *now*. Re-read David Devenish's 9 steps as a summary of the passage and take some time to discuss what those purposes are.
3. Even the Apostle Peter failed to fully live out the gospel when he withdrew from eating with Gentile believers (Galatians 2:11). Discuss some of the challenges you might face in welcoming people from other ethnic, socio-economic, or cultural backgrounds.
4. Have you seen examples in your life or in others where an allegiance to some identity other than our new identity in Christ has led to separation or exclusion?
5. Close your time in prayer for one another that Jesus might help each of us, and our church collectively, to increasingly grow to live as one new "nation" and "family" to the glory of God in Christ.

