

OUR ONENESS IN CHRIST LIVED OUT

Ephesians 2:14-18

Introduction:

- A. Having unity is a challenge
 - 1. In m_____
 - 2. In the b_____ of Christ (Eph 2:14)
 - 1. There existed two major c_____ (Jew and Gentile) d_____
 - 2. Christ made the two into o_____
- B. When believers experience oneness
 - 1. It g_____ God (division glorifies differences)
 - 2. It p_____ God's plan of saving people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and class of people.
- C. What did Jesus do to remove the barriers to oneness?

Our relationship to Christ distinguishes us from the world (14)

- A. What divided the Jewish and Gentile world before Christ? – the L_____ of Moses
 - 1. The d_____ laws (Lev 11:3-12)
 - a. Gentiles ate everything and anything
 - b. The Jews were restricted in what they ate so that they would be s_____ (literally, set apart from the Gentile world – Lev 11:44).
 - 2. The S_____ laws (Ex 20:8-11)
 - a. Gentiles did not have a particular day of rest
 - b. The Jews were to do no work on the _____ day. Even their work a_____ were to rest. This s_____ them (literally, set them apart from the Gentile world – Ex 31:13)
 - 3. There were many other categories of law, but all the laws were part of the O_____ Covenant.
- B. When Jesus came to earth
 - 1. He put into effect the N_____ Covenant with His blood (Lk 22:20)
 - 2. Jer 31:31-34 prophesied that the New Covenant would r_____ the Old Covenant (see Heb 8:13).
 - 3. He f_____ every single law in the Old Covenant (Matt 5:17) and encouraged His followers to obey those laws.
 - 4. When Jesus died, He fulfilled the p_____ of every law.

- a. The sacrificial laws – Jesus became the _____ time sacrifice for all sins for all time (believers fulfill the sacrificial laws by making Jesus their sacrifice)
 - b. The purification laws - Jesus fulfilled the purpose of the purification laws (His b_____ cleanses us from all sin – 1Jn 1:7)
 - c. The dietary laws and sabbath laws sanctified the Jewish people (set them apart from the Gentile world) – our relationship to Jesus s_____ us (1Cor 1:30)
- C. Some Christian groups wrongly add r_____ to follow that are not in the Bible (e.g. playing cards, dancing, smoking, wearing jeans, length of hair)
1. They are repeating the error of the Pharisees who added their own rules to the _____ law of the Sabbath (see Lk 13:14).
 2. It is fine for you to have a rule for yourself if you believe it is a violation of your relationship with Jesus, but do not put that rule on everyone else.
 3. Rules do not make us different from the unbelieving world, J_____ makes us different. The test:
 - a. If you are l_____ God by doing or not doing something.
 - b. If you are l_____ others by doing or not doing something.
- D. Today, the world is divided into two groups by Jesus – those who believe in Him and those who don't.

Jesus creates all believers into one new person (15)

- A. Believers are not to view themselves as different from one another but different from the w_____
1. Jesus c_____ all believers to be one (this word is used in the Greek text 15 times)
 - a. Nine times the above word is used to refer to the original creation (Mk 13:19; 1Cor 11:9; Eph 3:9; Col 1:16 – twice; 1Tim 4:3; Rev 4:11 – twice; 10:6).
 - b. The other five times it refers to creation in a s_____ sense. (e.g. 2Cor 5:17).
 2. By making all believers one, there is p_____ not division.
- B. Division exists between Christians today because some make an issue that God does not make
1. People tend to view people through the eyes of their b_____ experiences resulting in prejudices of all kinds

2. Believers are to look at people through the eyes of C_____ (Gal 3:28)

Jesus reconciles all believers in one body (16-18)

- A. Definition of reconcile
 1. It is the opposite of d_____
 2. It means to change from being divided to being in h_____
- B. Jesus reconciled us into one body through the c_____ (16)
 1. By removing the enmity or h_____ or the divisiveness of sin.
 2. By giving us a_____ to God the Father through the Holy Spirit (18) – see Rom 5:1
- C. Believers are not to be one body in title only but in function - the starting point is the local c_____
 1. G_____ God is our ultimate aim in everything (1Cor 10:31; Eph 3:21)
 2. 1Pet 4:10 commands us to unselfishly s_____ one another
 - a. This can be serving a g_____
 - b. This can be serving just one person.
 3. Ministering to the unbelieving world
 - a. Be conscious of the l_____ around you (e.g. list five lost people; pray for their salvation; look for opportunity to do g_____ to them; when they are ready, give them a bible, tract)
 - b. Pool r_____ with others to fulfill Matt 28:19,20.

To God be the glory in you, me, and in the church