

Ephesians 2:14-22 - Four Analogies of Christian Unity

Intro - The video at the beginning of our service showed different people from different backgrounds. Their former identities were a: *witch, evolutionist, jihadist, gang leader, abortionist, transgender, drag queen, druggie, KKK, lesbian activist*. The video pointed out their transformation by the gospel... *that is what they were...* then Jesus saved them... healed/forgave/loved.

^{1 Cor. 6:9-11} Christ's Church is made up of an assortment of sinners. Jesus saves sinners from every stripe, and He gathers them together as His church. But Jesus doesn't sort out His people into groups. He doesn't separate or segregate His saved sinners. He makes them one. Our text today uses four analogies about Christian unity (metaphor/simile/analogy/ idiom). Four descriptions that should help us guard against division -

Family

Sanctuary

Body

Citizenry

ONE BODY

- A main point of this passage is Christ healing the ethnic divide between Jew & Gentile
 - 2:14 "...two groups into one...broke down barrier wall..."
 - 2:15 "...make the two into one new man..."
- Jesus reconciles ethnic division in His Body.
 - 2:16 Jesus' death paid for ethnic animosity.
 - Jesus' death put to death the ethnic enmity. The battle ended in His body.
- Jesus' Body brought reconciliation and in His Body He formed one new body.
 - Eph. 3:6 Eph. 4:3-4
 - 1 Cor. 12:12-13 1 Cor. 12:27 Col. 3:15
 - Christ takes those with former ethnic animosity He puts them in the same body
- Each member of the body is distinct but has a common identity
 - Joined in one body under one Head...Jesus Christ
- Healthy body = member working together. Sick body = members fighting each other
 - When there is war going on within the body we call it a disease.
 - Ethnic animosity has no place in the Body of Christ for we are one body

ONE CITIZENRY

- Eph. 2:19a
 - Gentiles are no longer foreigners/aliens/strangers....but fellow citizens
 - Not second-class citizens but fellow citizens. All on equal footing in the kingdom
- Citizenship is big deal
 - Huge debate in our country over illegal immigration - the alien and stranger
 - Do the benefits of citizenship apply to the foreigner?
 - Paul was thankful for his Roman citizenship (Acts 16:37; 22:25)
 - Bui
- A common citizenship is a common bond of unity.
 - 9/11

- The Kingdom was one Jesus' favorite subjects - (100+ references)
 - He is the *King* and we are the "*dom.*"
 - The King and kingdom are what all Christians have in common
 - Phil. 3:20 Heb. 12:23 Luke 10:20
 - The Christians citizenship is a bond of unity

ONE FAMILY

- ❖ Eph. 2:19b
 - We are family 1 John 3:1
 - Adopted - Eph. 1:5
 - Born - John 1:12-13
- ❖ Our Elder Brother and our common brotherhood are our bond.
 - Heb. 2:11 Matt. 12:50
 - We are to consider our church family as family - 1 Tim. 5:1-2
 - Brothers and sisters in Christ
- ❖ Chorus - "*I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God...*"
 - A. Begg - "*I'm surprised you're a part of the family of God...*"
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 - We should pray that our local assembly would feel like family
 - Christian unity is realizing we are blood family.
 - all redeemed by the blood of the Lamb...our Brother was our keeper

ONE SANCTUARY

- Eph. 2:20-22
 - This is a picture of a Temple
 - There was great Temple of Artemis in Ephesus - one of 7 wonders of ancient world
 - This Temple is a much greater wonder - living Temple - growing
- 1 Peter 2:5
 - Jesus is building a Temple with His people Rev. 3:12
 - Many stones used to make one structure
- The church universal is a Temple
 - God dwells in His Temple - Eph. 2:22
 - New Covenant truth - "I will be their God and they shall be My people and I will dwell with them"
 - OT sanctuary - Ex. 25:8
 - OT Temple - 1 Kings 8:12-13, 27 (Acts 17:24)
 - 1 Cor. 3:16
 - The Christian individually & the Church collectively is where God dwells
 - "*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary...*"
- These four metaphors originate and culminate in Jesus Christ
 - He is the Head of His body He is the King of His kingdom
 - He is our Brother in the family His Body is the Temple - John 2:19-21