

Week 4

Icebreakers

1. What's your favorite fall beverage?
2. Did you have any traditions growing up during this time of year?
3. How have your childhood traditions affected you as an adult / parent / grandparent?

Main Scripture

Ephesians 2: 11-19

Main Points

- ◆ Ephesus was the center of the worst racial and political tension
 - We experience this tension today in our world and throughout history
 - Greek v "Barbarian"
 - Roman v Greek
 - Jew v Gentile
 - ◆ Paul writes the Gospel IS the answer
 - ◆ COMMON UNITY = community
 - We are a diverse mix of believers from every tribe, every nation, every tongue
 - ◆ We are RECONCILED through the blood of Jesus
 - Paul talks about who they once were and who they are now because of Jesus
 - ◆ Three changes we see in the text from Jesus' sacrifice
- 1 We were once OUT. Now we're IN
- Ephesians 2: 11-13
 - Romans 2 : 10
 - At first, we were without hope, without God. BUT NOW. We are brought near because of Jesus.
- 2 We were once SEPARATED. Now we are an INTEGRATED people
- Ephesians 14, 16, 18
 - We BOTH have peace through the blood of Jesus
 - Jesus has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility
 - We have been made COMPLETELY new, not just upgraded
 - John 10:9 ALL who come to him will be saved. Not just one group.

3 We were once FOREIGNERS and now we are made FAMILY

- Ephesians 2:19
- Diversity is VALUABLE with UNITY
- God's holy people. HIS house. ONE holy temple.

Questions

1. What tension comes to mind in our own lives that can separate us from the love of Jesus?
2. Do you feel we embody the early church more now or then?
3. Have we grown in our acceptance towards all tribes, nations and tongues?
4. How can you be reminded daily of the sacrifice Jesus did for you?
5. Do you feel like a new model since being saved, or are you still struggling with the "upgraded, but not yet new" concept?

Announcements

- ◆ Welcome back Lanitha!
- ◆ Series continues next week Sunday, October 8th.
- ◆ Student Leaders will be having their Student Leader meeting next Saturday, October 7th from 1:30pm - 2:30pm @ Pastor Josh Starnes' house!
- ◆ If anyone needs prayer throughout the week, or any assistance with their group/ life/ etc PLEASE REACH OUT