



## PART 3&4: *One* WITH THE WORLD AND CHURCH

### WEEK 10: THE NEW HUMANITY

WARM UP: Have you ever been excluded from something?

WARM UP: Have you ever been part of something that excluded others?

1. Read Ephesians 2:11-12. Since God spoke to Abraham around 2000BC, there was a separation between Jews (God's people) and Gentiles (not God's people). What do you know about the details of the Jew-Gentile divide? Why do you think God chose to make this (temporary) distinction between them?
2. Read Ephesians 2:13-15a. Paul speaks of Jesus ending the former arrangements, i.e. in the temple courts (v13) and in the law (v14-15a). How does Jesus' death on the cross achieve this?
3. Read Ephesians 2:15b-18. The outcome of this isn't Gentiles becoming Jews, it's Gentiles and Jews becoming "one new humanity", reconciled to God and each other. What is the significance of "peace" and "access" in this new humanity?
4. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. These verses speak of God building a new "temple" / "dwelling in which God lives". What is Paul talking about? Where do we see this today?
5. Read Ephesians 2:14-15 again. Notice Paul's language: "he himself", "in himself", "in one body". This points back to Adam & Eve, the root cause of all humanity's brokenness and division. Christ himself is the new humanity (the new Adam) and all people are invited to be part of it/him. How does this happen?

6. Read Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11. The Apostle Paul understood this reality to mean reconciliation and peace for all aspects of divided humanity – not just Jew and Gentile, but male and female, slave and free etc. – and for the church (the body of Christ) to be the tangible representation of this on earth. In what ways do you see this actually happening today? In what ways do you see the church falling short of this calling?

7. There's a lot of focus in our society today about issues surrounding reconciliation and peace. What is good about the way our society approaches these issues? What is not so good? If someone came to you and asked, "How can Christianity / the Church help humanity pursue reconciliation and peace today?", what would your answer be?

**PRAY:** Confess your own prejudices and desire to separate from others, and ask God's help to be His agent of reconciliation and peace in the world.