

First Baptist Church – Calgary

Week of: January 31, 2010

Message Series: Ephesians – God’s New Society
#5 – A New Humanity.

Study Notes:

Personal Study: #5 – *God’s New Humanity*

Read Ephesians 2:10-22

1. What are some of the good works that God has created for you to do in: your family; your neighbourhood; your church; your world.
2. The Jews of Paul’s day had an immense contempt for the Gentiles, claiming that God created them to be fuel for the fires of hell.
What do you think it would be like to be a Gentile in this pre-Christian condition?

Read Ephesians 2:14-19

- 3 How did Jesus bring the Jews & Gentiles together? What is the significance of “the dividing wall” (v 14) in relationship to the temple in Jerusalem with its Jewish and Gentile courts?
How radical would the Church in Ephesus look to the Jewish & Gentile population of the city?

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

4. What is the final outcome of Christ destroying hostility between the Jews & Gentiles.
5. Read verses 21-22 again, and reflect on how God is bringing the whole world together through His Son, Jesus.
 - Do you know of any other circumstance in which people from every nation are brought together permanently in unity?
 - What is so powerful about the Church being an international community of people who live together in peace & unity?
 - What happens when Christians do not live this way?
 - As a Christ-follower at First Baptist, do you struggle with:
 - people from other nations who are joining with you?
 - changes in the music & worship on Sunday?
 - how people dress for “church”?
 - leadership & governance that may be different?
 - how the furniture and buildings are modified?
 - How will you protect the unity of Christ’s Church in these things?
6. In your prayer this week, thank God for giving us the opportunity at First to be an international Christian Community. Ask him to work in you his grace to live out the truth that the dividing wall of hostility has been destroyed between all those who believe and follow Jesus Christ.