

DIGDEEPER

November 15, 2015
Ephesians 2:11-22 ([Listen](#))
Dr. Richard Rogers

THE BIG IDEA

Without realizing it, we can often make God part of our lives instead of living from the reality that our lives are but a small part of his grand plan for all the world. That plan includes the unity of all peoples by Christ in the church. We have a role to play in bringing about this unity. We are to be peacemakers because of what Jesus has done on our behalf.

START A CONVERSATION (Use this to begin a Conversation that Matters with your kids, co-workers, spouse, or someone in line at the grocery store. Then, [tell us about it.](#))

Why do people divide themselves from one another?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Name a peacemaker you know (someone whose life is spent making Jesus known)? What are they like? Describe how their daily habits, relationships, and attitude help make this happen.
- Richard mentioned that verse 11 contains the first command of the book (“Therefore, remember...”). In your own words, summarize what Paul is telling us to remember.
- The Pharisees were known for adding their own restrictions or commands to the Law as a way to separate themselves from others. Examine your own life. What ways have you separated yourself (or been separated) from others by restrictions or commands added on top of what God requires of people?

GO DEEPER

- We deserved condemnation but have been declared righteous by God because of Jesus. When we start there and are captured by the idea that our account is settled with God not by our behavior but by Jesus, we will live differently. We will forsake man-made divisions of behavior, race, class, or preference. The only division in this world that will matter to us is whether people know Jesus. Take a few minutes to be reminded again of the miracle that [you have peace with God through Christ by faith alone.](#)
- As Christians, we can often act as though our personal salvation and holiness is all that matters in this life. But, we are called to so much more. Follow along as Chris Castaldo explains [why we must pursue church unity.](#)
- The Pharisaical walls we erect have been a problem throughout the history of the church. But, we must subject them to the truths of Scripture. Here’s an example from Acts 10 of what happened [when the Apostle Paul encountered a man-made wall.](#)

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

Spend time reading this week’s passage and asking the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of your heart. Think of a segment of our church body that you currently have very little interaction with. Why is that? What is one, small step you can take this week to bridge that gap and actively pursue peace in the body of Christ?