

DIGDEEPER

November 22, 2015

Ephesians 2:11-22 and 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 ([Listen](#))

Dr. Richard Rogers

THE BIG IDEA

Our sin nature inevitably leads us to separate from others in a variety of ways, but the New Testament is clear that this should not be the way of Christians. We should instead be people marked by a joy in Jesus that propels us in love toward those who don't look or act like us—both within and without the church. This work of bridge building is our only hope of reaching our world for Christ.

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.](#))

Do you go to church somewhere? If so, what is God doing in your church?

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- We looked at the words of Paul to the Corinthian church in 1 Corinthians 1:10-17. Richard noted that the divisions in the Corinthian church were keeping them from their mission. What is the mission of the church at large? Why does it exist?
- What things are essential to Christianity that we cannot yield on? What things are non-essential and open to disagreement among Christians?
- In what way(s) do you come to church each week expecting to be served or accommodated? Do you belong to a “group” that you expect to be recognized or honored in a particular way?
- Which grouping in the church (young families, students, senior adults, etc) do you feel most distant from and why? What would begin to close that gap?

GO DEEPER

- Stephen Nichols is the president of Reformation Bible College and hosts a weekly podcast called *5 Minutes in Church History*. In one episode from earlier this year, he attempted to summarize [all of church history in five minutes](#). There's a lot packed in a few minutes, but it's a great summary of the pathway that led to various church divisions.
- Erik Raymond explains [why squabbles within an individual church matter](#).
- What does unity look like when uniformity is lacking? When asked by a Muslim student at the Univ. of Michigan about how Christianity can be true if it is so fractured, Ravi Zacharias gave a helpful answer [on unity](#) in the midst of intra-church disagreement.

LIVE IN LOVE THIS WEEK

One of the best ways to begin undoing division is to become a hospitable servant. This might look like serving the youngest on Sunday morning or traveling to feed the homeless once a month in Houston. Maybe it means opening your home and dinner table to someone who is at a different life stage than you. This week, make a practical move toward being to be a person who reflects the hospitable heart of God.