

Clean Slate | Ephesians 2:11-22

February 5th, 2023

My Story Questions

These questions/activities help the group know one another and transition to deeper discussion. Choose one. OR.... You might start the meeting with one person sharing highlights of their story. Set up a rotation.

- 1) What has been your experience in a foreign land? Did any cultural norms make you feel uncomfortable?
- 2) How have you seen God at work in your life this week?

Study Questions

These are meant for personal preparation and group discussion. Use all or pick a few to discuss.

- 1) What truth from the sermon made a difference to you this week? (Maybe have the bulletin handy for review)
- 2) Were there any questions from the Live it Out section that you would like to discuss?

Read Ephesians 2:11-18 - Bringing the Two together as One

3) Notice how often the word “peace” is used. (Vs 14, 15, 17) What lessons are learned about Jesus and his ability to reconcile people?

4) What two “hostile” things were made one through the cross. (for help see John 4:9) In what relationships have you witnessed God break down barriers and bring reconciliation?

5) In what personal relationships do you want to see reconciliation?

6) Read also **Galatians 3:28** What barriers between people in the church do you perceive and want removed? How will you pray or take action?

7) What could it mean that Christ “nullified” or “abolished” the law at the cross? How did that understanding bring unity to Jew and Gentile then and how does it bring unity to the church today? (See note below)

Read Ephesians 2:18-22 Building the Temple of God’s people

8) Here is a list of privileges that all believers have in Christ. Which impacts your daily life the most? How?

9) What is the household of God built upon? How does that challenge you to be Word dependent?

10) Where do you see beauty in being members of one household with other followers of Jesus? Where do you find it difficult?

11) Together, we are now the “new temple.” Why do we need to focus on both a personal and collective indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Since, “we” are God’s dwelling place, what should that look like?

12) We are now God’s people, defined by God’s presence. How would you summarize the implications for your life this week?

Responding to Jesus

Offer these questions for personal reflection before your group prayer time. Practice listening for God’s voice.

- 1) Lord, “What can I do or not do that would bring more unity to the church?”

For further study

Support for question #7: *The Ceremonial laws and Civil laws were nullified - no longer required. Only the moral laws still apply after the cross so people would not be separated by cultural barriers. Also, Our penalty for breaking the Law was abolished at the cross, as Jesus took our penalty in himself. This verse can cause misunderstanding. We don’t want people to think any part of God’s Word is somehow flawed. “Abolished” and “nullified” are difficult translations for the thought being put forth. The laws no longer have the same purpose. This question may be offered if your group struggles with the language in this verse.*