

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS / January 21, 2018
“RECONCILIATION FOR DUMMIES”
Ephesians 2:11-22

INTO THE BIBLE

1) Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What were the main points of the sermon?

- How does this section build on 2:1-10?
- Who is 2:1-10 describing? How can we know if these benefits apply to us?
- In 1 John we discussed the evidences of genuine saving faith- what are they?
- What is the connection between vertical and horizontal reconciliation?
- Why is it so important that we have unity in our church? What is real unity?
- Why do many who *claim* to know God hold grudges? What does this say about their faith?

2) Read Ephesians 2:11-13

- List the words and phrases Paul uses to describe the non-Christian.
- Summarize the status of the non-Christian.
- Why do so many non-Christians (even those in church each week) feel they're *ok* with God?
- In what ways can people fool themselves in thinking they are saved- when they are not?

3) Read Matthew 6:14-15

- What is Jesus saying here? Do we earn our salvation by forgiving others? Why? Why not?
- How important is reconciliation with other people?
- What does Jesus mean that if we refuse to forgive others, God will not forgive us? Discuss
- Who is someone that has been very hard to forgive in your life? Did you forgive them? How?

4) Read Isaiah 53:3-5, Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 2:13

- How does the blood of Christ bring us *near God*? (Ephesian 2:13) What does this mean?
- Who is being described in Isaiah 53? How do we know this? Where are these vss cited in the NT?
- What is a formal theological definition of Christ's atonement?
- Why can't God just forgive people? Why is there a need for a blood sacrifice?
- How does the cross reveal both the justice and love of God? Discuss.
- How does the substitutionary view of the atonement differ from other views of the atonement such as *The Ransom Theory, the Moral Influence Theory or the Christus Victor Theory*?
(cf: Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology* Chapter 27)

5) What is the Gospel? What is the summons of the Gospel? When is the last time you shared the Gospel with someone? What is the role of baptism and the Gospel? Is baptism a matter of obedience? When were people baptized in the New Testament- *before* or *after* conversion? Discuss.

- *Acts 2:38, "Peter replied, repent and be baptized, everyone of you."*
- *Acts 2:41, "Those who accepted the message were baptized."*
- *Acts 8:12, "When they believed they were baptized."*

6) Read Romans 1:18-20

- Why specifically, is God's wrath revealed against human beings?
- How do sinners like us, suppress the truth about God? Be specific.
- How plain is the evidence of God's existence around us? Give specific examples.
- Discuss the statement by Yale theologian Miroslav Volf, "*God is not loving in spite of his wrath; He is loving because of His wrath.*"

“Family Focus” Community Group questions for 1/21/18

FAMILY FOCUS

Parents, we are pleased to include a family-oriented section to the Community Group questions. Our goal is to assist you in taking what you have learned through the sermon and discussed in your group and “bring it home” to your family.

“Reconciliation for Dummies” – Ephesians 2:11-22

The New Testament uses a number of metaphors to describe the true church, those who have been saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. Pick one of these metaphors, read the scripture, and discuss the implications (why do you think God used that metaphor for the church? what meaning does that have for our own church, particularly as we gather together?).

- The body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16)
- The Lord’s flock (Psalm 23:1-6; John 10:1-15)
- God’s building and temple (1 Corinthians 3:10-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:19-22)

We encourage groups and families to use the New City Catechism – Question #3 for the week of January 21, 2018 (use the book, download the app, or go to www.newcitycatechism.com)