

A NEW HUMANITY

Ephesians 2:11-18

MAIN IDEAS FROM THIS WEEK

1. THE BEFORE PICTURE
2. THE AFTER PICTURE
3. HOW JESUS ACCOMPLISHES THIS TRANSFORMATION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – Pick one or two of these to talk about as a group

1. What stood out to you most from this week's message? Why?
2. Last week, we looked at how Jesus changes our individual identity. This week, we saw how Jesus changes our group identity. What are some of your group identities?
3. In Ephesians 2:11-18, Paul talks about how Jesus removed the extreme hostility between Jews and Gentiles. While you probably haven't experienced the hostility between those two groups, there is still plenty of hostility in the world today. Where have you personally experienced or held attitudes of superiority that have led to hostility?
4. What is it that Jesus did to bring about the transformation that is described in Ephesians 2:11-18?
5. Being a part of the new humanity that God has created through Jesus means that when we become Christians our "identity deck" has to be reshuffled. The top card must always be our identity in Christ. Do you have any groups you identify with that you need to stop associating with entirely? Do you have any groups you identify with that you need to move lower in your deck? What can we do to keep our group identity as a Christian as our top identity?
6. Take some time as a group to list specific markers of our Christian group identity. What does it look like to live like who we really are in Jesus? What do Christians know? What do Christians do? (Note: Get as specific as possible. For example, "*We are a people who forgive our spouses when they act selfishly.*" "*We are a people who stand for the truth but refuse to attack the other person when we disagree with them.*")

A TRUTH TO TAKE WITH YOU: In Jesus, all our reasons for feeling superior to others are obliterated. We are on level ground. We all have equal access to God.