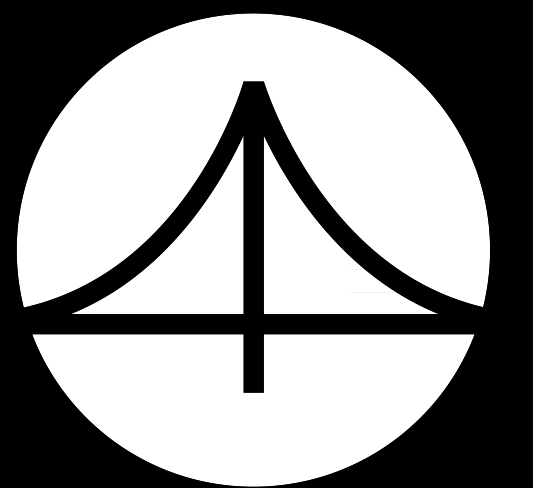


Ephesians: In With God, In The Church

Ephesians 2:11-22



Peace with God requires unity in church.

- **What Could This Look Like?**
- **What Keeps Us From It?**
- **How We Get It**

What Could This Look Like?

- By bringing us close to God, Jesus brings us close to one another
- No barrier can keep us apart in light of what Jesus has done
- The church is meant to be a family that functions as a new kind of humanity
- This requires deep involvement in one another's lives

Ephesians 2:11-22

What Keeps Us From It?

- Division and hostility
 - Useful in the world's system for exploiting in order to advance ourselves
 - Allow us to look down on and judge others
- Individualism and independence
 - If we don't ask for help, we rob the church of the chance to be the church

Ephesians 2:11-22

How To Get It

- Jesus breaks down barriers and kills hostility
- Jesus overcomes our individualism and independence by rescuing us
- Truly understanding the gospel sets us free to be the community God wants us to be

“The cross is the place where barriers are destroyed. Before the cross we know our own sin, and we cannot stand there without realizing all of us are without defense and have no claim on God. No one has higher value than anyone else. The ground at the cross is level. Any standing we have is God-given, not something that inherently makes us better than others.”

- Klyne Snodgrass