

How (very) different people should get along in the church

Ephesians 2:11-22

1. VERY different people are found within one church...

Jew / Gentile – e.g. Ephesians 2:11-22

Many ethnicities – e.g. Revelation 7:9-12, Colossians 3:11 (“... barbarian, Scythian...”)

Social classes – Colossians 3:11 (“... slave, free...”)

Rich and poor – James 2:1-9

Powerful and weak – 1 Corinthians 1:26

Men and women, married and unmarried – e.g. Titus 2:1-6, 1 Corinthians 7

Young and old – e.g. Titus 2:1-6, Ephesians 6:1

Different backgrounds → different consciences – Romans 14, 1 Corinthians 8:7-13, 10:23-33

2. God’s plan is for a DEEP and a GLORIOUS unity

Through the Cross of Christ – Ephesians 2:13,14,16,18,19,20

To reveal the Gospel – Ephesians 3:6-11

3. Putting this truth to work in OUR church family

NOT unity over truth (see Ephesians 2:20)

NOT unity in the Gospel and in something else

***** Pursue a community that reveals the Gospel in our relationships ***** = Ephesians chapters 4-6

Discuss!

- Look at Ephesians 4:2. How does the Gospel help YOU to put this verse into practice?
- What stops us from showing the Gospel in our relationships with other Christians?
- Talk to your neighbour. Each of you share some experiences of the Christian life...
 - What’s the SAME?
 - What’s DIFFERENT?
(Maybe you’re talking with someone who is quite different to you.
Why not ask: “Is there anything that I should know or understand better?”)
- Can you think of any other Bible passages that help us?