



## Be The Church: Many Peoples, One Body

August 29, 2021

Centreville Baptist Church

Pastor Aaron Nichols

Ephesians 2:11-22

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Three questions to help us grow in this area

1. Are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_?
2. Are we \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ us?
3. Are we able to \_\_\_\_\_ who we see as \_\_\_\_\_?

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### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

1. Why is it so uncommon for people to love those not like themselves?
2. How has Jesus modeled loving those not like Himself?
3. How does the love of Jesus empower us to love those not like us?
4. How do you define "success" for your church when it comes to pursuing the core value of Many Peoples, One Body? How does Ephesians 2:11-22 inform that definition?
5. Are you nurturing community in your local church in a way that Jesus is the compelling, unifying feature? Or is it something else? In what ways are you pushing a "gospel-plus" community that people can manufacture on their own?
6. What do you talk about with other church members outside of church? To what extent do casual conversations differ from what you'd expect to hear in a local gathering/neighborhood picnic/Little League game?
7. How many of your friendships at church would likely exist even if you weren't a Christian?
8. Discuss the 3 diagnostic questions that were presented in the sermon. Is there a particular area that you're struggling in? How can the group help you grow in this area?