



# One in Christ

*How to break-down racial barriers at work*

## **Ephesians 2:11-22**

<sup>11</sup>Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)—<sup>12</sup>remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup>by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup>He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup>For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup>Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup>And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

(New International Version)

## **Discussion Questions:**

2:11-12 – What two groups of people does this passage talk about and how are they distinguished?

2:13 – What made the difference to those who were without hope and God in the world?

2:14-16 – What did the blood of Christ result in?

Why are there barriers of hostility between people?

2:15-16 – What did God do through the blood of Christ?

2:17-18 – What else did Jesus do besides dying for us?

2:19-22 – What analogies here describe the church?

2:22 – Where is it that God lives? What is being built?

2:11-22 – What is the principle here we should apply?

What makes people different?

What do all people have in common?

Since we have so much in common, why do we have racism?

How does basic human selfishness cause racism?

How do we know that selfishness is a universal problem?

Can people learn not to be selfish apart from God?

How is the common view of love actually selfish?

How is the love of God distinguished from the common view of love?

What does God think of selfishness?

What is the problem with selfishness?

What is the ultimate cure for selfishness?

How may we break through racial barriers at work?