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Sermon Notes

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Jews and Gentiles Made One in Christ

Ephesians 2:11-17

For the next two weeks, we will be looking at Ephesians 2:11-17, a powerful text that gives the only hope there is for racism, and cultural divisions that separate our world and that the Supreme Court and the United Nations and other forms of justice and diplomacy have never been able to solve...

THE ONLY HOPE FOR RACIAL DIVISION IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

Next week, we will broaden to speak of racism that still plagues our world today, and how the gospel sets us free!

But this morning... we're zeroing in on the division between Jews and Gentiles... a division that deals with salvation in its core... with the Old Covenant and its rules and regulations... and with the sweetness of the gospel, and what Jesus has accomplished for us as Gentiles

We are all of us Gentiles... perhaps... and we need to realize just how astounding it is that we have become members together with Israel in the covenant of salvation!

AMAZING!!

And Paul gets to the root of the **HATRED**, the **HOSTILITY** between Jews and Gentiles here

From the Gentile side, there is the arrogance, the military superiority, the vicious persecution and even genocidal mania... seen most recently in Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, the "Final Solution" of Auschwitz and the other death camps... but also all throughout history... like the Anti-Jewish pogroms Czarist Russia that the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" depicts... to the earlier Anti-Semitic

viciousness of the Spanish Inquisition... and all the way back to the anti-Jewish genocide planned by Haman during the Persian Empire recorded in the Book of Esther... Gentile hatred for the Jews is well established, and the military arrogance

“Ben-Hur”: Roman Messala says contemptuously to his Jewish former friend, “Ah, you are a conquered people!”

But the Bible makes just as plain the other side... the Jewish jealousy and hatred of the Gentile world as well... the arrogance religiously, the fact that Gentiles were EXCLUDED from the Temple, EXCLUDED from the sacrificial system, OUTSIDERS made the Jews feel superior... then, when the Jews rebelled against God’s covenant and failed to keep it, and God began to give them over again and again to Gentile invaders (Book of Judges, and all the history of the Kings... Gentile victories under the Philistines, the Egyptians, the Midianites, the Ammonites, the Syrians, etc.) God shrinking the Jewish territory under Gentile victories... the very thing God said he would do as a curse to the Jews if they failed to keep the Laws of the Covenant:

Deuteronomy 28:25 The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You will come at them from one direction but flee from them in seven, and you will become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms on earth.

Deuteronomy 32:21 They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.

Ultimately, this was consummated in the Exiles under Gentile invaders... the exile under the Assyrians, and then the Babylonians... then one succession of Gentile overlords after another. The Jews were deeply jealous of the Gentiles and hated them, because they were slaves in their own land

In Paul’s day, that was focused on the Romans, the dominant Gentile power of their day. So that whenever Paul proclaimed God’s

saving intentions toward the Gentiles in Christ, Jewish nationalists would GO ABSOLUTELY CRAZY with rage!

Paul's defense before his countrymen in Jerusalem in Acts 22:

Acts 22:21-23 "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'" ²² The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!" ²³ ... they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air

It is true that God had chosen the Jews and had blessed them

Exodus 19:5-6 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'

But it was for the purpose of blessing the whole world as the Abrahamic covenant had made plain:

Genesis 12:2-3 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

The Jews had long since forgotten this theme! Only in Christ has it come true... before Christ came, there was a DEEP HATRED, a DIVIDING WALL of hostility... established in the Law of Moses, but resulting in a hatred that can only be removed by Christ!!

This is the Jew-Gentile division Paul addresses in this chapter

But here, he is speaking directly to Gentiles... to Ephesian Christians, to help them see how AMAZING it is that they are included at all!!

I. Gentiles Formerly Excluded and Without Hope

Ephesians 2:11-12 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)-- ¹² 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.

A. Remember What You Were, You Gentiles!

1. Paul calls on the Ephesians to remember how it used to be spiritually
2. Ephesus was in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey
3. It was a Gentile city in a Gentile region... they worshiped the pagan deities, like Artemis, whose image had supposedly fallen from heaven, for whom they made a huge temple... they worshiped IDOLS
4. Their men were uncircumcised... they were seen to be UNCLEAN DOGS by the Jews

Vs. 11 “Gentiles by birth...” or more literally “Gentiles in the flesh”

That was their genealogy... their racial lineage...

5. Paul wants them to LOOK BACK, to REMEMBER how it was for them as a nation, as a group
6. WHY? Because the more we remember what we were when we were lost, the more glory God will get for our salvation and the more joy we'll have in our earthly circumstances
7. It was for this very reason that he began the chapter the way he did:

Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

REMEMBER how you were? How it was back before you were saved?

The more we know how BLACK it was spiritually, how awful was our condition, the more GLORY will come to Christ for saving us and the more joy and power we'll have in serving Him, or dear Savior!!

8. NOW... he wants to tell these Gentiles MORE... how they were OUTSIDERS to the covenant of salvation in Abraham
9. How would they ever have known this?
10. They were living their messy pagan lives in Ephesus, apart from the unfolding drama in the Promised Land... they knew nothing of Abraham or the Jews; except that the Jews had been scattered by the Assyrians and then the Babylonians, and some had come to live in their locality
11. Paul himself, a Hebrew of Hebrews, an Israelite, had grown up in Gentile territory in Asia Minor, in Tarsus, also in modern-day Turkey... an overland journey of a little over 700 miles... but all part of the same region under the Persians and later the Greeks
12. The Jews were well-known by then, and perhaps had spread their heritage, their lineage from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
13. So maybe the Ephesians knew very well how it was with them... they were NOT JEWS... so he says **REMEMBER THAT FORMERLY...**

B. Called "Uncircumcision" by Those Who Put So Much Stock in "Circumcision"

Ephesians 2:11 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)

1. "Gentiles in the flesh" = not BIOLOGICALLY DESCENDED from Abraham ... simply put NOT JEWISH
2. But also SEEN TO BE OUTSIDERS by patriotic Jews, by nationalistic Jews...

3. CALLED UNCIRCUMCISED... by those who CALL THEMSELVES THE CIRCUMCISION
 - a. This is a bit of a DIGRESSION... a PARENTHESIS... but it is important for the Jew-Gentile unity he has in mind here
4. Paul is bringing up the Jewish attitude about the reality here
 - a. Spiritual superiority... hostility... hatred
5. But Paul is speaking of their circumcision: external and physical
6. In Romans 2, Paul makes it plain what he means:

Romans 2:28-29 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

That is the spiritual resurrection we have already seen in this chapter

Ephesians 2:4-5 But God... made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.

Remember that you Gentiles in the flesh and uncircumcised in both flesh and spirit...

Ok... remember WHAT???

C. REMEMBER: Six Devastating Things About Unconverted Gentile

Ephesians 2:12 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.

Separate from Christ... Excluded from citizenship in Israel... Foreigners to the Covenants of the Promise... Without Hope... Without God... In the World

1. Separate from Christ = outside of Christ, apart from Christ, not in fellowship with Christ
 - a. How devastating! How grievous!

- b. Christ, the fullness of joy, Christ is life and power and peace and everything good in the universe
 - c. As GENTILES, separate from the PROMISE of Christ the Law and the Covenants had come to give the world
 - d. Gentiles had NO SUCH HOPE... no promise of a coming Savior... therefore, they lived in darkness, with no goal, no finish line of human history
2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel
- a. Citizenship is something the Gentiles under Roman domination would have understood
 - b. Paul uses a powerful expression here... alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
 - c. They were outsiders, having no rights and privileges as Roman citizen did under Roman law
 - d. Why excluded? Because the LAW kept them outside... God had established this plainly

Deuteronomy 23:2-3 No one born of a forbidden marriage nor any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation. ³No Ammonite or Moabite or any of his descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, even down to the tenth generation.

Nehemiah 13:1-3 On that day the Book of Moses was read aloud in the hearing of the people and there it was found written that no Ammonite or Moabite should ever be admitted into the assembly of God... ³ When the people heard this law, they excluded from Israel all who were of foreign descent.

The Old Covenant law was ALL ABOUT EXCLUSION... "Thus far you may come, and no farther!" So even the Aaronic priests could only enter the Holy of Holies once a year... basically, the entire human race was excluded from the presence of God because of our sins, but the Gentiles were FURTHER AWAY than the Jews

God had established it this way! He had SET UP this barrier, this dividing wall, for his own wise purposes

The Law with its commandments and regulations excluded all uncircumcised people from the sacred assembly... the Gentiles were OUTSIDERS because of the Law

Ephesians 2:14-15 ... the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ ... the law with its commandments and regulations.

3. Foreigners to the Covenants of the Promise

Genesis 12:2-3 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 15:5 He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars-- if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Genesis 15:7 He also said to him, "I am the LORD, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it."

- a. And at that time, he made a Covenant with him as well... a dreadful darkness fell, the firepot appeared and passed through the pieces of the sacrifice, and God spoke clearly of what he would do for the Jews, resulting in the Exodus and the conquest of the Promised Land
- b. This idea: COVENANT (is a sworn agreement) ... this gave the Jews something to live for, identity, a sense of the presence and power of God at work in the world for their salvation
- c. The word is plural here.. COVENANTS of the Promise; The second covenant was made with David
- d. The Gentiles were EXCLUDED from this... walking through their lives with NO such covenants from God, no promises had been made to them

4. Without Hope

- a. I think about these expressions almost every day about the people surrounding us

Vs. 12 Without hope and without God in the world

- b. It is almost inconceivable how much anguish and pain this one phrase represents in human history... all the suicides there have ever been by non-Christians have been because of this... this black hopelessness, this thick soupy downward pull toward depression and madness
- c. “Vanity of vanities! Everything is empty... meaningless!” Utter despair
- d. Without hope... nothing to live for
- e. Hope is a feeling in the heart having to do with the FUTURE... it’s a confidence that the future will be bright, the future will be good, the future will be happy and rich and pleasant
 - i) Three types of hope
 - ii) Eternal hope: based on life after death; that I will most certainly be eternally happy when I die
 - iii) Long-term hope: I’m looking forward to the rest of my life; my life is worth living, it is rewarding, it is going to produce a good end
 - iv) Short-term hope: I’m looking forward to the rest of today, or this upcoming week
 - v) Non-Christians have no good reason for eternal hope:
 - atheists and Darwinists speak courageously about becoming literally nothing when they die, and when microbes eat their brains; people in other religions can’t touch Christian hope: Muslims aren’t really sure what Allah will do; Buddhists and Hindus point toward Nirvana in which they will become lost like a drop in an endless sea, which seems little different than the atheist’s nothingness

vi) Non-Christians may have long-term hope because they like their career, or they have a lot of money... but the more philosophical ones know that nothing is certain, the stock market can plunge, disease and death may steal everything away

vii) Non-Christians may have immediate hope, but it ends up sounding a lot like “Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die!” Entertainment is diversion, distraction, “amusement” = a + muse = DON’T THINK about it... forget your troubles for a while

- f. On what basis can any non-believer have for this feeling of HOPE... confidence that the future will most certainly be good? The future is something no one knows... it is dark and uncertain, and based on what you see, it is BLEAK... every good thing seems to turn bad, death and destruction is everywhere, nothing tastes any more, nothing satisfies
- g. But when God speaks into world history and tells us that he holds the future in his sovereign hands, that he actually has ordained and decreed the future, and that he promises it will be beautiful, pleasing and glorious... that’s Christian hope!!

Application: Have mercy on your non-Christian neighbors, have mercy on your non-Christian co-workers and fellow students; Have mercy on total strangers that you sit with on the plane or chat with at the mall... and SHARE THE GOSPEL!! They are “without hope and without God in the world!”

5. Without God

- a. This means without God as a blessing Father, God in his love for us, God in his care for us
- b. This is the essence of hell... a place where God has withdrawn every evidence of his love and care
- c. Earth is like hell for the lost people... just without a full expression of it or an eternal expression of it... WITHOUT GOD

6. In the World

- a. Satan's world, dominant, the "god of this age"
- b. The ruler of the kingdom of the air... "in the world"
- c. How desperate is the condition of the lost people around the world

Application: we MUST be a missions-minded church; passionate for the gospel; passionate for the reaching of Unreached People Groups... IMB... long-term missions; Great Commission Fund, Lottie Moon

II. Gentiles Now Brought Near by Christ

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

- A. But Now... is like But God in verse 4
- B. "Near"... How Amazing is that!
 1. God is high and holy, infinitely great!

Isaiah 40:15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are regarded as dust on the scales; he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.

Isaiah 40:22-23 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. ²³ He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

2. We are sinners, distant from him through the wickedness of our hearts and lives
3. God has reached down across the infinite space between him as Creator and us as Creature... and even more distant because of our great sins against his holy person and his perfect law
4. And he has BROUGHT US NEAR... we are now engraved on his hands and our names are written in his heart

5. NEAR... we are in fellowship with God through the Holy Spirit and have free access to God any time we want to speak to him

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

6. NEAR... to ALMIGHTY GOD!!

Seated with Christ at the right hand of God in perfect fellowship with Him...

We who once were so far away!

C. By the Blood of Christ

1. This amazing grace of God was not free of cost... it was infinitely costly to Christ
2. We have been brought near BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

Hebrews 9:22 without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:4 it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

3. This sacrifice of Jesus Christ, once for all, on the cross, has paid for all the sins of both Jews and Gentiles who believe in him
4. Christ's death opens the way for sinners to come into the presence of God

III. Christ Makes Us One

Ephesians 2:14-15 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,¹⁵ 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

A. Christ is Our Peace

1. Only by Christ does the peace the world so deeply longs for come to us sinners

B. Peace with God First

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

1. This is an unshakeable status of peace between God and us... another word for it is RECONCILIATION, which comes in again at the end of this section... relational harmony with God

Ephesians 2:15-16 His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

2. the war is ended; peace with God forever, through the blood of Christ—God’s wrath is satisfied
3. On the basis of that, we can be at peace with each other

C. Christ has Made the Two One

1. Paul teaches that former enemies can be truly, deeply, totally one with each other
2. In Christ, we can find perfect, God-like unity... patterned after the Trinity
3. It is impossible for us to be united with Christ and at war with someone else united with Christ
4. Our spiritual union with Christ was taught earlier in the chapter:

Ephesians 2:4-6 God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus

5. That’s true of every single Christian in the world!!

6. On that basis, Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians are made one with each other as well... ONE BODY, united in Christ

7. As he will say later in this epistle:

Ephesians 4:3-6 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

D. Christ Does This By Making Us New Individually

Ephesians 2:15 His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace

1. The key is the transformation the gospel makes on a sinner BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

^{KJV} 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We are MADE NEW PEOPLE... we think differently, love differently, live differently

The "one new man" has a new name... no longer "Jew" or "Gentile" but "Christian"!!

That's the only designation that matters now

2. Just as the Spirit takes out the heart of stone and gives us a heart of flesh toward God and toward Christ, so he does the same toward other Christians

Illus. Ben-Hur; filled with hatred, filled with desire for vengeance because his friend Messala had unjustly accused him and had sent him as a galley slave, and had unjustly imprisoned his beloved mother and sister, leading to their contracting leprosy... he was seething with hatred

But as he stood at the foot of the cross and watched Jesus die, as he heard him say, “Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they’re doing”, Judah ben Hur said **“I felt him reach down and take the sword out of my hand.”**

So it was also with the Apostle Paul... he was filled with murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples and was dragging them off to prison to be killed...

But on the Road to Damascus, when he saw the resurrected Christ, he lost all hatred for other Christians... the Holy Spirit entered him and he began to love the brothers and sisters

IV. Christ Destroys Dividing Wall of Hostility

Ephesians 2:14-17 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,¹⁵ 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,¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

A. One Last Issue: The Law with its Prohibitions and Regulations

1. God had actually established the “barrier” the “dividing wall” in the Old Covenant regulations
2. He established the sign of circumcision and made it a lasting separation between Jew and Gentile, a mark of the Old Covenant
3. He had forbidden the Jews to intermarry with the Gentiles
4. He reestablished that plainly after the exile to Babylon under Ezra and Nehemiah
5. But in Christ’s there is the BLOOD OF A NEW COVENANT... it makes the old one OBSOLETE... the word here is “abolished”
6. The ceremonial laws that separated Jews and Gentiles—
circumcision, dietary regulations, worship regulations, walls and

curtains and rules excluding people from entering the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place... all of that was ABOLISHED when Jesus died

7. The curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom... and a “new and living way” was opened for every sinner through faith in Christ
8. Indeed, Jewish people had themselves been excluded from approaching God, for the blood of animals had not been able to bring them near to God

Leviticus 16:2 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the ark, or else he will die

EVERYONE was excluded!!! Even the Aaronic priests were excluded in the Old Covenant... as God had said to Moses:

Exodus 3:5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

B. The Ceremonial Laws are ABOLISHED

Ephesians 2:15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.

Hebrews 8:13 By calling this covenant "new," he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and aging will soon disappear.

But now, in Christ Jesus, all those ceremonial laws are abolished and every believer in Christ—Jew, Gentile, male, female, of every tribe and language and people and nation are welcome in the presence of God

C. This is Basis for TRUE UNITY between sinners all over the world!

Ephesians 2:17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

The GOSPEL... the message of peace... proclaimed to everyone, near (Jews) and far (Gentiles)

This peace with God leads to peace with each other!!

V. Applications

A. Gentile Christians: Stand Amazed at What God Has Done!

1. How did we become sons and daughters of Abraham??
2. How did we, wild olive shoots, get grafted into this cultivated olive tree that God has been working on? How are we now receiving nourishing sap from the root system of the promises and covenants made to Jewish ancestors?
3. Be amazed! Understand how LOST we were... how much OUTSIDERS we were
4. Understand that we were worse than ILLEGAL ALIENS when it came to the nation of Israel and the covenants of the promise... we were not merely hunted down by border patrol police... but by the Law of God, by the omnipotence and omniscience and holiness of God
5. We are EXCLUDED! Now in Christ we are BROUGHT NEAR!

B. Delight in the FREE ACCESS we have to God by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

- ### C. Meditate Much on the State of the Lost: “Without hope and without God in the world”
1. Let this motivate us as never before toward evangelism and missions
 2. See people this way!! See them as HOPELESS!
 3. Try to imagine what it’s like to live a truly HOPELESS life!
 4. The Gospel has power to give hope to the hopeless
 5. Let’s live to see Durham reached!

6. Let's yearn to see some of the wealthier people moving into these new apartments and condos reached for Christ
7. Let's yearn to see some of the more economically disadvantaged folks also reached

D. Supernatural Unity

1. Let's understand what being made ONE IN CHRIST means
2. Meditate on Christ's prayer

John 17:20-21 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

Unity like the Trinity... perfectly united in mind and heart... never the slightest shade or shadow of disagreement

That's what it'll be like in heaven between people from every race and nation on earth!!!

3. America: this is the only answer to RACIAL TENSIONS!!
4. This is the answer needed in Ferguson... and in Baltimore... and anyplace that racial tensions flare up or there is racially motivated racial violence
5. The unity described in Ephesians 2:11-16 is the hope for the world
6. It is also the only unity for Serbia and for the Ukraine and for Rwanda and for China as well
7. It is the only hope for unity in the Middle East... between Palestinians and Israelis... and there ARE some amazing stories of unity in Christ between former Muslims and formerly anti-Christian Jews
8. All the old tensions only melt away when people genuinely come to Christ

E. Surprising Unity Feeds Evangelism

John 17:22-23 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

If the church is amazingly INTEGRATED... if it looks like heaven on earth in terms of multiracial unity... the gospel will be greatly advanced!

To unbelievers:

COME TO CHRIST

Don't be filled with hatred or feel isolated

Don't be "without hope and without God in the world!!!"