



Title | Social Justice & Unity
Series | Sounds Good, But . . .
Text | Topical
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | October 9, 2021

Sermon Notes

Ephesians 2:11 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—**12** 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. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** 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, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Ephesians 2:14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

In his book, *Confronting Justice Without Compromising Truth*, Dr. Thaddeus Williams says, “Tribalism is the idea that we should divide people into group identities, then assign undesirable or evil traits to that group in such a way that we don’t see the unique image-bearers of God before us.” In what ways do you see tribalism in America? In what ways might you see it in yourself?

Tuesday:

Read Ephesians 2:11-18. How is this passage about tribalism? What are the tribes in view? What are the tribal problems or conflicts?

Wednesday:

In Ephesians 2:11-18, what is the “dividing wall of hostility”? How did Jesus destroy it?

Thursday:

If we take “unity” to mean people living together as one in peace and harmony and tolerance, without prejudice, without bigotry, without discrimination, then how does Paul argue for unity over tribalism in Ephesians 2:11-18?

Friday:

In light of Ephesians 2:11-18, how would you evaluate the modern social justice movement known as Critical Race Theory? Does it seem to promote unity or tribalism? What positive things might we learn from it?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to overcome my toxic propensity to tribalize. Help me to view and treat others with the honor and respect and justice they are due as fellow image-bearers. Amen.