

The World After Easter: One New Humanity

May 5, 2013

Welcome

- 1) What is your ethnic background? What country did your ancestors come from? Do you know anything about them?
- 2) When have you ever felt out of place? Have you ever been in a situation where you had the feeling that you did not belong? How did it feel?

Word

Read Ephesians 2:11-18

- 1) What problems did the Gentiles face before Christ according to this passage?
- 2) What benefits do the Gentiles receive from being “in Christ”?
- 3) How many references to peace do you find in this passage? What does this communicate to us about the nature of the kingdom of God?
- 4) Where have you seen the “us vs. them” at work in your world?
- 5) How does ethnic division stir up hostility? How does the cross “kill the hostility” between groups of people?
- 6) What are the social implications of the death of hostility?
- 7) What does it mean for Jesus to give us a “new way of being human”?
- 8) What are the differences between viewing the kingdom of God as God’s way to form us into a new humanity and the kingdom of God as God’s way to take us to heaven when we die?
- 9) What does this new humanity look like in a world full of hate and hostility?
- 10) How can we clearly identify our differences with other people without hostility?

Work

- 1) Where do you still have a tendency to divide people into “us vs. them” categories?
- 2) What steps do you need to take in order to live as a part of the new humanity without social divisions?

Worship

- 1) Psalm for the Day - Sun: 125 / Mon: 126 / Tue: 127 / Wed: 128 / Thur: 129 / Fri: 130 / Sat 131
- 2) Pray for one another