

PEACE MAKERS

RESTORING + RECONCILING

Part 3: *One New Humanity*

(Featuring Darrell Winger and the MCC Africa Learning Team)

APPETIZER: Review & Responding to Feedback

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
~ Jesus (Matthew 5:9)**

The Problem...

White Supremacy → White Normalcy → White Advantage

The first step: Developing Empathy...

**Jesus wept.
(John 11:35)**

**Mourn with those who mourn.
~ The Apostle Paul (Romans 12:15)**

**So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,
for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.
~ Jesus (Matthew 7:12)**

FEEDBACK SO FAR?...

DINE IN: Jesus Is Our Peace

Ephesians 2:11-22

TAKE OUT: Next Steps

1. WATCH: "Get Out" (if you're up for a scary movie) and/or "Black Panther" (Ah-may-zing!).
2. READ: Efrem Smith's "The Post-Black & Post-White Church: Becoming the Beloved Community in a Multi-Ethnic World."
3. DO: Talk to your lead pastor about organizing an "Ears to Hear" event in your community.

NEXT WEEK:

Peacemakers concludes with a focus on indigenous people.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. After reviewing Sunday's message, talk about what most interested, excited, or perplexed you. Take your time with this. There's lots to talk about.
2. Have you seen the movies "Get Out" or "Black Panther"? If so, talk about any thoughts that might relate to this series.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Ephesians 2:11-22**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. In verses 11-12, Paul reminds the gentile Christians of their old lives and where they came from, before they were united to Christ and to fellow believers. What value is there in remembering where we came from spiritually?
 - c. In verse 13 Paul says the force that brought Jews and Gentiles together was "the blood of Christ." Then he goes on in the following verses to explain how that is the case. In your own words, how does the death of Jesus bring divided people together?
 - d. How is Jesus himself our peace, with God and with each other?
 - e. Even when we are "near" to Christ, we still need him to preach peace to us. Talk about how that can be encouraging for you in your ongoing journey of repentance as a Jesus-follower.
 - f. In verses 19-22, Paul uses three different pictures of who we are in Christ to help us catch a vision for our unity: a) fellow citizens of a new kingdom; b) family in the same home; c) a holy temple. What is the value of each picture? What lessons can we learn from each view of our new humanity in Christ?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Review verse 22. Through Jesus, God is continually building different and divided people together, so his Spirit can live in us. Pray for each other and our church to experience the fullness of what God has for us.

Quotes

Welcome back to our 2018 Peacemakers series. Today we are privileged to hear from Darrell Winger and the MCC Exchange Team as well as a message from Bruxy.

In Ephesians chapter 2, in the middle of a discussion about racial division, the Apostle Paul paints a picture of what Jesus accomplished through his death in order to bring about our life ***together***...

For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

He did this by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two.

Thereby making peace, and in 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. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
~ Jesus**