



SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

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BOTH+AND — Vertical + Horizontal

Warm-Up Question:

What are some values/qualities that make a friendship life-giving for you?

READ: Ephesians 2:11-22

I. VERTICAL + HORIZONTAL: RELATIONSHIP RIFT

- ▶ Describe from memory the consequences of Adam and Eve's broken vertical relationship with God followed by their horizontal relationship with each other.
- ▶ How does Eph. 2:12 describe our broken vertical relationship?
- ▶ Describe all the ways our broken relationship with God leads to broken relationships with others. Be specific with your relationships with family & friends

II. VERTICAL + HORIZONTAL: RELATIONSHIP RECONCILIATION

- ▶ Go through each verse of v. 13-19 and describe the ways God brings reconciliation in our relationship with him
- ▶ From those same verses, discuss the words that describe the result of that reconciliation with God. What are the fruits?
- ▶ How do these verses describe our relationships with each other as a result?

III. VERTICAL + HORIZONTAL: RELATIONSHIP RESTORATION

- ▶ Read Col. 3:11. Discuss the rifts and why it would have been difficult to have fellowship with each other in society at that time?
- ▶ From v. 19-22, what would allow for those different people groups to come together and sit next to each other at church?
- ▶ **APP: Do you have anyone you struggle to be reconciled with or to restore the relationship? What is one way this passage encourages you to move toward them?**

For Prayer:

- Praise God for his pursuit of reconciliation with us through the work of Christ
- Pray for a soft heart that looks to reconcile with others as God does with us
- Pray we'd be a church where every person feels welcome and loved



SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

BOTH + AND — VERTICAL + HORIZONTAL
Ephesians 2:11-22

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Scriptures Used

Eph. 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.

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Col. 3:11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.