

## **Introduction:**

### **Prejudice - pre•ju•dis**

A judgment or opinion formed before the facts are known; the act of pre-judging another person's value, worth, significance, or suitability for inclusion within a group based on appearance, race, cultural background, speech, nationality, gender, geography, or personal history.

- Have you ever been wounded by the “pre-judgments” of others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Have you ever intentionally or unintentionally wounded others by “pre-judging” them?

**A case study in prejudice:**

Ephesians 2:11-22

**A classic conflict = Hostility**

*<sup>11</sup> 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)—*

*<sup>12</sup> 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.*

Ephesians 2:11-12

**A supernatural solution = Peace**

*<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,*

*<sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup>and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.*

*<sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:13-18

### A powerful testimony = Unity

*<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.*

*<sup>21</sup> In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:19-22

### How to stop the painful cycle of prejudice:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your former condition. Ephesians 2:11-12
2. \_\_\_\_\_ that the ground is level  
at the foot of the Cross. Ephesians 2:13-16
3. Let your \_\_\_\_\_ come down. Ephesians 2:17-18
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in God's family is not an option  
to be considered, but a fact to be experienced. Ephesians 2:19-20
5. \_\_\_\_\_ that God's presence dwells  
where unity prevails. Ephesians 2:21-22

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What wounds in your life can be traced to the issue of prejudice?
2. What new insight did you gain about some of your own “preconceived” ideas of others?
3. Which of the steps to “stop the painful cycle of prejudice” were most helpful to you? Why?
4. Why is it so important that we, as believers, model reconciliation and unity across all cultural, racial, and socio-economic lines?
5. What “one thing” would God have you do to bring greater harmony and unity in your relational network?