

THEME: ONE NEW MAN IN CHRIST JESUS

PASSAGES: Ephesians 2: 13-18 & Galatians 3: 26-29

LAUNCH

- Can you remember the last time you were on the edge of a social event ie not properly included? How did you feel?
- Think about the last time you attended something with 'a bad attitude' (like the example Dave gave in his sermon, of him going to the wedding). Why did you have that attitude & what caused it?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

Read Ephesians 2:13-18

- In what way were the Ephesians and Gentiles '*far away*' from Christ in particular? In what ways are all people far away from him? (v 13)
- Discuss all the different ways in which Christ is our peace (v 14)
- Describe the process by which Jesus breaks down the dividing wall of hostility between Jew & Gentile (v14 & 15)

Read Galatians 3: 26-29

- What does it mean to '*be baptised into Christ*' and to '*clothe ourselves in Christ*'?
- Paul chooses three distinct partitions that affected his society: Jew & Gentile, slave & free and male & female. Why did he choose these three in particular?
- What are the major partitions that affect or infect our society today? How does 'one new man in Christ' teaching resolve these barriers?

UNDERSTANDING & APPLICATION

In the sermon, Dave suggested a number of areas where barriers might exist between different groups:

Male / Female; Black / White; Old/ Young; Gypsy / non gypsy; Rich / Poor; Able / Disabled; Mentally ill / Mentally well; Beautiful / Unattractive.

- Choose a few of these areas and discuss what barriers or mis-assumptions might exist.
- How does one new man in Christ sweep these away?
- Does one new man in Christ have anything to say about categories of sexual identity (and whether they apply at all)

PRAY for Jubilee Church and more areas in which we can become increasingly diverse.
Give thanks for what he has done amongst us over the last 5-10 years