

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Here are a lot of questions. Choose the ones that interest you, in any order...

1. Why do you think humans tend to separate into groups and put up boundaries and barriers to mark off those who are 'inside' and those who are 'outside'?
2. How do you think Christ has transcended the usual dynamics of religious group identity? What does it mean that he is creating one 'new humanity' in which those boundaries and barriers are put to death?
3. How do you see the Jews? How does this passage help us to see the Jews in a way that fits with God's purposes for them and us together in Christ?
4. What difference should this vision of a new humanity make to the way you as an individual relate to others?
5. Lynn Cohick says that 'this reconciliation brings all people together into a new group, where no single culture, language, or political entity is privileged over another. This is a unity of differences, not a union of sameness'. What does that mean for our corporate life as a congregation?
6. On Sunday Tim challenged us to see how a stronger Māori voice (with its emphasis on community and relationship) would enhance our life together and help us better understand the book of Ephesians. Do you agree? What tensions does this create for you? How could we bring in more of that voice at DCBC, beginning with your own group?
7. We're so familiar with 'church' that we can all too easily become bored or disappointed. How does Paul's vision in this passage lift us to a higher vision of who we are as a living temple of the Spirit (1 Peter 2:5)?
8. What might it mean to see your own life as just one note played by just one instrument in a soaring symphony? In our life together as God's people, how does the metaphor of a symphony orchestra illustrate the 'unity of differences'? After all, a collection of instruments all sounding the same note would be very poor listening experience.

And a teaser for next Sunday, who is the audience listening to the symphony? See Ephesians 3:10.