



**Connect Study**  
**Core Value #6**  
**UNITY IN DIVERSITY**  
Ephesians 2: 11-22



**Sermon  
Points**

- 1. The centuries long Divide** (Ephesians 2: 11- 12)
  - 1.1 The inauguration of the sign of the covenant i.e. Circumcision between Abraham and his offspring. (Genesis 17: 4-11)
  - 1.2 The problem by the time of the New Testament between the ethnic Jews and the Gentile Converts was the idea that Gentile Converts should be circumcised according to the law of “Moses,” otherwise they cannot be saved. (Acts 15: 1-2)
  - 1.3 Paul’s understanding of circumcision was that being a true Jew is not outwardly and circumcision is not just outward and physical but a matter of the heart by the Spirit. (Roman’s 2: 28, Roman’s 4: 11- 12)
- 2. The Dividing Walls has been broken down by the blood of Christ** (Ephesians 2: 13, 15, 17)
- 3. A new family is created** (Ephesians 2: 8, 16, 17, 21, Revelation 5: 9)

**Discussion  
Starter**

In our continent of Africa, we have over 2 000 languages and different backgrounds and cultures. In South Africa alone we have 11 official languages and are so rich in cultural diversity.

- The question is then, how can we live together in unity as diverse as we are?  
How would that look like especially in the church?

**From the  
Bible**

1. Read through the Bible references in the sermon points and note any questions or anything that stands out for you.

2. What could have been the cause of the big division between the Jews and the Gentiles (nations) from Abraham until Christ?
3. How did Christ bring about unity or reconciliation between the Jews and Gentiles, how did He break down the dividing walls?

**Think it through**

1. Would you say the issue of division, racial and ethnic suspicions, dislike, disrespect, and hostilities is an issue of the past or is it still an issue/problem going on onto our present day?
2. What do you think about the idea that church services must only be according to ethnicity lines? Or even the encouragement of that idea?
3. There are forces at work to wreck efforts at achieving unity in our diversity i.e. Satan, pride, guilt etc. Individually and as a church do you think we should be advancing that cause and drawing others into it and staying at that cause?
4. And what would that look like?

**Pray**

**Prayer for the week:**

O God,  
 from whom all good proceeds:  
 Thank you that in Christ we are unified despite our diversity.  
 Grant that by your inspiration we may think those things that are upbuilding and right,  
 and by your merciful guiding may do them;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, for ever and ever.  
 Amen.



**Unity in diversity**  
 We value people from all backgrounds, cultures and circumstances as we live out our unity in Christ.  
 (Ephesians 2:12-14, Galatians 3:28)



**Core values**  
 Love  
 Service  
 Integrity  
 Missional  
 Intentional  
 Unity in diversity  
 Bible & gospel centred