

# Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for February 6, 2022

## Sermon Notes

### **From Alienation to Reconciliation How Do We Live Out the Ministry of Reconciliation?**

Ephesians 2:11-17

Last week we saw the reality of cultural and racial alienation between Jews and Gentiles that existed in Paul's day (2:11). We also saw that this cultural alienation is rooted in the reality of spiritual alienation - the reality of sin and our separation from God (2:12). "But now", Paul writes, this reality is changed - things are different. Christ is the one who changes our status from "separated" and "alienated" to "brought near". He is the one who brings reconciliation to the hopeless and godless. Jesus is the one who breaks down the walls that divide racially and culturally diverse people and "he himself is our peace who has made us both one" (2:13-16). Jesus is the one who is creating in himself one new man in the place of two. On the cross, he has killed the hostility. He himself has accomplished the reconciliation between God and man. This is the reality of what Christ has done for us by his blood on the cross. It is this vertical reconciliation between God and man that is the foundation of the horizontal reconciliation between racially different people.

Part of the good news of the gospel is that reconciliation has been accomplished. But the spiritual reality of what has been accomplished is not yet been fully realized here on earth. The supernatural unity that Jesus prayed for (John 17) and bought with his life's blood is not yet the reality here in our world, nor in our country, nor in our community, nor in our neighborhood.

Recognizing the challenge of reconciliation accomplished vs. reconciliation realized, how do we live out the ministry of reconciliation that God has commanded us to pursue? How do we love our neighbor as ourselves in this present dark evil age?

Remember the glory of God's multi-ethnic vision. (Gen. 3, Matt. 28, Rev. 5:9, Rev. 21-22)

Recognize the reality of this present evil age and its impact on us. (Gal. 1:4)

Rejoice in the reality of the triumph of Christ and the reconciliation accomplished. (Eph. 2:14-ff)

Resolve to be committed to the ministry of reconciliation through the power of the Holy Spirit individually and corporately.

# Weekly Discipleship Guide

## Know

**What does God intend for me to know?  
In your journal, use the following prompts to write some truths that stood out from this week's message.**

- I never knew...
- I was challenged...
- I was encouraged to...
- I was reminded...
- I was convicted...
- A question I still have...
- A truth I could share...
- I need to dig deeper into...

## Be (Consider)

**What does God's Word lead me to prayerfully consider?  
In your journal, use the following questions to write some prompts to use in praying through this week's passage.**

- Is there a command to obey?
- How am I compelled to exalt God?
- Is there a promise to claim?
- Is there a principle to follow?
- Is there an example to follow?
- Am I convicted to confess any sin?
- Is there a sin to avoid?
- How do I need to rest in Jesus/the gospel?
- How can I pray for someone else?
- What am I compelled to love or desire?

## Do (Yield)

**How does God's Word call me to yield my life? In your journal, write your answers and thoughts in response to the following questions.**

What comes to mind for you when you hear the word *reconciliation*? How has this passage and this week's message impacted your understanding of it?

What are some of the aspects of this present age that you see affecting your own mind and heart? How should we go about combating that as we seek to be gospel people?

What is one step that you feel compelled to take toward being committed to the ministry of reconciliation? How can your group pray for you to embrace the role of ambassador of Christ with greater intentionality?

\*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's message & to prepare for Life Group.

### Westwood Staff

- Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor
- Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor
- Jim Fulp:** Counseling Pastor
- Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students & Discipleship
- Deborah Rudd:** Children's Ministry Coordinator

### Contact Us

336.599.1982  
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com  
www.westwoodfamily.org

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm  
*Other times by appointment.*  
  
Mailing Address  
970 Leasburg Road  
Roxboro NC 27573-5470