



Now to Live the Life – you are united – Ephesians 2-12-22
Sunday 24th September 2017

A.Pearce

Preferences and Prejudices.

We may prefer tomato sauce over brown sauce, that speaks of our greater liking over another, but when it comes to types of people, we can have prejudices that are grounded not in reason or experience but because they are different from us.

In our reading, Paul, writing to the Ephesians, reminds them that they were once not part of the 'in' crowd, not part of God's chosen people of Israel (Jews), but Gentiles (non-Jews) that were alienated, excluded and were treated with hostility. But Jesus, when he died and rose again, stripped away all the things that the Jews held to be their way 'in' (laws and regulations v15), broke down the barrier that excluded the Gentiles and showed that there was a new way to be 'in' and that was by following him. So in Jesus, both the Jews and the Gentiles are made one, a brand new humanity, united in him, built together into a dwelling that God can live in by His Spirit and Jesus being the chief cornerstone that supports the whole building. Jesus is our peace, our reconciliation who restores our relationship with God and with each other.

It is no longer a case of being 'in' or 'out' but in following Jesus, to repent and change our direction and minds to the new way, to have a new purpose and be part of something bigger.

POD Questions:

1. Prejudice is rife in our world, why do you think it happens?
2. Have you ever been, alienated or excluded? How did that make you feel?
3. Why do you think that there could be prejudice between fellow Christians, how could we stop it happening?
4. If we as God's people are the building blocks of God's house, what is our purpose? (verses 19-22)

Line Game: The Freedom Writers

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The Freedom Writers: Line Game Video Clip

Assigned the thankless task of teaching freshman English at a gang-infested Long Beach, CA high school, a 23-year-old teacher called Erin Gruwell resorts to unconventional means of breaking through to her hardened students. Long Beach is a place where a new war is waged with each passing day, and when the hardened students who walk those dangerous hallways sense an outsider attempting to understand their plight, their cynical resentment threatens to keep a deadly cycle in motion. Despite the initially hostile reaction she receives in the classroom, Gruwell uses the writings of Anne Frank and Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Sarajevo to teach her students not only the basis of the English language, but compassion and tolerance as well. Later, when the time comes to tell their own tales in a project specially designed to explore the daily violence that the majority of students have grown numb to, the barriers that had once stood so strong gradually begin to crumble. When the only chance for survival is to befriend the person who was once your mortal enemy, the world is opened to a whole new realm of possibilities.

<https://youtu.be/PahVp7p3XHg>