

God's Unity

Ephesians 2.11-17

Key Points

These verses talk about the way that the hope God offers is extended to non-Jews by Jesus' death on the cross - that rather than being for a chosen people, it encompasses everybody.

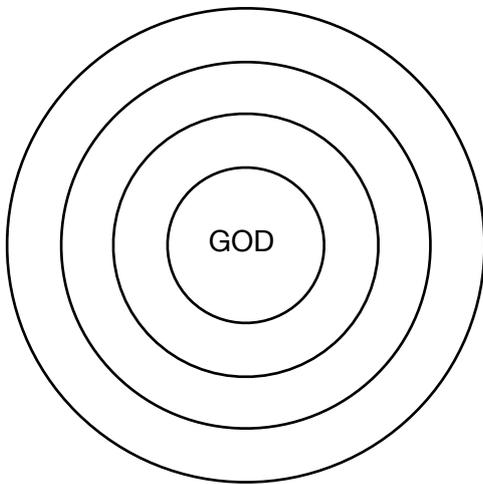
We thought about the way that we relate to being on the inside or the outside - do we expect Jesus to be 'for us'; do we see ourselves as loved and accepted, or do we think God hasn't really accepted us, and we're somehow second-class Christians?

If we know that God is for us, it raises our expectations about what God will do; how he will react to us taking time out to hear his voice, spending more time in prayer; believing that he will act in amazing ways.

We also talked about what the transformation might look like as we look outwards - in terms of how we can accept others as we've been accepted, through hospitality, friendship and any other means, seeking to offer the same welcome to others as we have received ourselves.

Questions

1. If you drew a circle around God, and then some more, gradually bigger, around that, where would you place yourself in relation to God?



2. What difference does it/would it make to feel truly accepted by God?
3. What does this passage teach us about the importance of Christian unity?
4. What is the role of (a) the Holy Spirit and (b) Christians in bringing about unity?
5. When - and how - has God exceeded your expectations?
6. How can we raise our expectations of what God is going to do?
7. What are the things that stop us sharing the hope you have in Jesus with other people around you?
8. How can we be more intentional about demonstrating God's desire to bring about reconciliation and unity?