





14 Nov 2021 | ONENESS | EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Series: Rediscovering Church (2 of 4) | Speaker: Pastor Ernie Song



You may want to look up the following websites for icebreakers suitable for your cell.

Ice Breakers 1
Ice Breakers 2



You may select songs like

- 1. One Voice
 - 2. Reward
- 3. I Belong to You (Hillsong)



SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

- 1. make unity a priority in our cells and ministries, that there will be no divisions and labelling within the church
- 2. embrace all kinds and types of people that come to our church and cells
- 3. participate in the common work and goal of the covenantal community (becoming like Christ and reaching the lost)

SERMON SUMMARY

Unity is a critical issue in the church today. Jesus does not want to return to a divided church. God's heart is for us as brothers and sisters to remain united. Because unity is a spiritual issue, we must understand it according to what Paul is teaching in Ephesians 2. Paul addressed the division between the Jewish and the Gentile believers within the Ephesian church. Similarly, when we deal with issues of disunity today, we must:

- remember who we are we are sinners saved by grace.
- pay attention to our weaknesses we have the potential to sin through our actions, words and attitudes
- consider others better than ourselves we should focus on unity rather than on who's right and wrong

SERMON RECAP

Humility in Diversity (vs 11-12): As a church we must guard against anything that divides us. When dealing with issues of disunity, we must remember who we are (humility). We are all sinners saved by grace (there is none more superior than others), we are capable of being wrong and we have the ability to sin (through our thoughts, words and actions). When we have humility, our focus will be on unity rather than on who's right and wrong.

Salvation Impacts Our Vertical & Horizontal Relationships (vs 13-18): Christ as Saviour has become our peace that breaks down any wall of diversity. Therefore, the church must always be a place for people of all types, races, tribes and tongues. There must never be hints of racism or labelling in our midst.

You are Saved into a Covenantal Community (vs 19-22): Salvation is never apart from the church community. In this community, there is a common goal (mature into Christlikeness) and a common task (reaching the lost). When the church is united in our attitude, our goal, and our work, nothing can come against the church. It will be an unstoppable force of heaven here on earth.

Conclusion

When Jesus died for the church, He abolished all dividing lines between people. We all have the same starting point, where we are saved by grace. We all have a common goal, which is to mature into Christ's likeness. And we all have a common task, which is to fulfil the Great Commission to reach the lost.

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Do you see salvation and the church as two separate entities? How has the sermon changed your view on salvation and the church? [15 Mins]
- 2. Is there a strained relationship you personally have or one you see within the Body of Christ? Share with the cell. What steps can you take to allow the finished work of Jesus to bring healing to this relationship? [15 Mins]
- 3. God has created every church community with diversity, and for us to be a healthy community in RiverLife, we are encouraged to use our gifts to love and serve others. During this season of the COVID-19 pandemic, how do you think you can help strengthen our church so that we will emerge from this pandemic stronger?

 [15 Mins]



Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- We will make unity a priority in our cells and ministries, that there will be no divisions and labelling within the church
- embrace all kinds and types of people that come to our church and cells
- participate in the common work and goal of the covenantal community (becoming like Christ and reaching the lost)

2. COVID-19 in Singapore

- God's continual intervention as we extend the Stabilisation Phase.
- God's protection as we learn to live with COVID and begin to open up our borders.
- God's hand to alleviate the sufferings, and for practical help to arise and be rendered to these suffering communities, especially the old and the vulnerable.

3. COVID-19 in the World

- A swift end to the COVID-19 crisis globally, if not a reduction in cases in third world nations, and a stable environment where humans and virus coexist.
- Healing and comfort for those who are sick and suffering.
- Protection and guidance for healthcare professionals at the frontline, giving them wisdom, courage, and strength to confront this crisis.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

• Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.



- 1. Rediscovering Church (Ephesians). This month (November), we are embarking on a four-part sermon series entitled Rediscovering Church. The pandemic has disrupted the way we worship, relate and serve in church, and changed how our cells and ministries function. We hope that this sermon series, based on Ephesians 1 to 4, will help us realise the importance of belonging to community and receive fresh revelation on what it truly means to be the Church, especially during such a time.
- 2. November Midweek Equipping The Will of God vs. The Will of Man (The Calvinist-Arminian debate). This month's midweek equipping series is a 3-part session conducted online on 10, 17 and 24 Nov. The guest speaker is David Lim, Academic Dean of ACTS College. You can join via this link: rlc.sg/midweek.
- **3. In-Person Worship Services From 1-30 Nov.** In view of the extension made to the Stabilisation Period, our existing service timings will continue for another month until the end of Nov there will only be one in-person service at 9am for English Adults on Sundays. The capacity remains at 300 congregants. Our Youth service will increase its capacity to 150 pax in-person.

- **4. Missions from Home**. We encourage all to get involved by praying, giving, or serving. Find out more about the different countries we're working with: rlc.sg/mfh. Join a MFH team: rlc.sg/mfh-serve
- **5. Prayer Ministry**. If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. unforgiveness, demonic oppression, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: https://bit.ly/rlcrtf
- 6. Bible Reading Plan. You can access our 2-Year Bible Reading Plan 2021-2022 by visiting https://rlc.sg/brp2021.

ONLINE GIVING TO RIVERLIFE CHURCH

Contribute your tithes and offering digitally:

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR* code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200100806D*.

2. Interbank Transfer

RiverLife Church Bank Account: DBS Autosave 029-902431-0

Bank Code: 7171 / Branch Code: 029



ONLINE DONATION TO RIVERLIFE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Donate digitally:

1. PayNow

Log in to your bank's existing mobile banking app. Scan this *QR* code on the right OR enter *UEN No. 200711586WDON*

