

Can you identify any prejudice against any people in yourself? What can you do to change that attitude?

How will Jesus' death and resurrection help you overcome those barriers?  
(You might like to think about going out of our comfort zones, putting our prejudices away, and being patient with people who are different from us.)

**Pray**

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***What can unite humanity?***

***Gentiles and Jews divided***

***Jesus is making one new people***

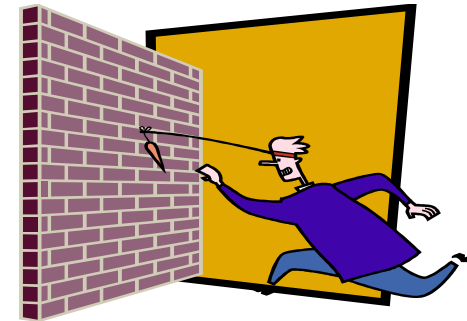
- a) Jesus has made peace between Jews and Gentiles**
  
- b) Jesus made peace by destroying the wall between them**
  
- c) Horizontal peace is linked to vertical peace with God**

***The depth of the peace we enjoy!***

- a) Citizens**
  
- b) Family**
  
- c) Temple**

## **Ephesians study 3**

# **Forgiveness that transcends cultural barriers (part 1)**



### **Discuss**

People love to talk about “world peace”. But often this peace has nothing to do with our relationship with God. Can our world really achieve peace? Or is peace more of a by-product of something else? Can we truly achieve peace on this earth without first being at peace with God? Why or why not?

## Background

The Jews had a special relationship with God because they descended from Abraham. In Genesis 12, God made a promise to Abraham. This promise included a land, a nation and blessing to the rest of humanity. It is this third blessing that Paul is referring to when he speaks of non-Jewish Christians in our passage today.

## Read Ephesians 2:11-22.

Who are the Gentiles and how are they being described?

called \_\_\_\_\_

separate from \_\_\_\_\_

excluded from \_\_\_\_\_

foreigners to \_\_\_\_\_

without \_\_\_\_\_

without \_\_\_\_\_

How would you summarise their relationship with God before they gave their lives to Christ?

Why were they in this situation?

What happened to them in Christ (verse 13)?

Let's think about how Jesus' death brings a Gentile "near to God".

v14. What did Jesus do?

v15a. How did Jesus do it?

v15b. Why did Jesus do it?

v16–18. What did Jesus achieve?

According to verses 19–22, how does Paul now describe Gentile Christians?

## Think about it

How did Jesus' death and resurrection bring both Jews and Gentiles together?

Why did Paul have to highlight the difference between the Jew and the Gentile?

How do we know that Paul was talking about this problem? (Hint: verse 11-12)

## Application

Why is it good that FOCUS has people from different countries?

What is hard about knowing someone from another culture?