

# SMALL GROUP Q'S

The Mystery of the New Temple  
March 15, 2015  
Ephesians 3:1-6

- 1.) Where in the culture today do you see groups distinguishing themselves from others based on a defining characteristic? How have you experienced in your own life the temptation to “fit in” or belong by identifying with one group that others are not a part of?
- 2.) What do the first two chapters of Ephesians teach us is the only thing that defines our identity as Christians? In what places do you tend to find your moral/spiritual sense of identity and belonging other than “in Christ”?
- 3.) Explain in your own words what the “mystery” Paul talks about in these verses is.
- 4.) Describe the dynamic of Jew-Gentile relationships using the Temple in Jerusalem as an example. In what way does Paul say Jesus changes these relationships?
- 5.) Where have you seen the beauty of God’s presence in the midst of diverse relationships within the family of God?
- 6.) Where do you think we (Southwood or the American Church) struggle most to embody the reality of the new temple God is building? What would some steps toward improving that look like even in your own life and our own city?
- 7.) Which Christian or group of Christians do you sense your heart has a barrier against? Who doesn't perform or “get it” the way you think they should? What should you do?  
  
HINT: Remember that simply modifying behavior misses the reason *why* we've built the barrier. We must dig deep enough to find the thing in our heart that is giving us reason to feel superior to them ... there's the idol we need to do the hard work of repenting of!
- 8.) Discuss what it should mean for us that God actually dwells in us corporately by his Spirit. What should we expect to happen in and through the Church? Why?
- 9.) BONUS: Role play a conversation with a non-Christian friend who feels the Church of Jesus Christ is exclusive and cliquish.



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