

Blood and Water: A New Home

Ephesians 2:14-22 (I Corinthians 6:6-8)

September 30, 2018

WARM-UP QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever lived with a non-family member? What was it like? What was the best and/or worst parts of that experience?
2. What is there in familial ties that even when there are differences the family relationship may be able to withstand and not fragment apart?
3. In your honest opinion, how strong are your bonds to EBCLA? Explain your answer.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. In the Corinthians passage, Paul is addressing disputes between Christians. Why might the conflict have escalated that this would have to be brought to a public legal setting? Why does Paul suggest that it may be better to endure being wronged than to have lawsuits presented before non-Christians. Does this apply to us today?
2. What was the nature of the wall that divided the church in Ephesus? What would each side have to give up in order to “live” together?
3. How do you think Paul’s declaration that Jews and Gentiles together are a new humanity in Christ would have been received? In our present context, how would a call to a similar unifying message fare?
4. If everyone at our church were to agree on the centrality of Christ’s atoning death/resurrection and salvation by grace, are there issues where we can exhibit more latitude to disagree?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. How would you rate yourself on being able to live and worship together when you know that there is a diversity in theological positions with others?
2. Pastor Jason says while the world tells us that we need to come down on one side or another on divisive theological issues, he believes that God provides a third way to thrive and flourish together. Do you agree with his assertion? How can we live this way out?
3. Pastor Jason encourages us to “to hold our convictions on specific issues more loosely so we can cling tighter to the truth that is Jesus Christ. What do you think this means?
4. What are the potential walls that our church needs to address? What would the different sides each need to acknowledge and affirm in order to live together?