

FOUNDATIONS FOR RECONCILIATION · DAY ONE

The Individual Design

Ephesians 2:8–10

First Missionary Baptist Church · Huntsville, Alabama

“...and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” **2 Corinthians 5:18**

“All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation... entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18–19

Today we will

- 01 Understand what it means to be God's poiema
- 02 Consider our own lives as God's poem, God's work of art
- 03 Ask whether our view of good works is consistent with Paul's
- 04 Begin to see what your life could look like as God's work of art

Opening question: if someone painted your life on a canvas, what would it look like? What would be at the center?

*“We are his poiēma —
his workmanship, his work of art.”*

EPHESIANS 2:10

If someone painted your life on a canvas, what would it look like? What would be at the center?



FOUNDATIONS FOR RECONCILIATION · DAY TWO

The Relational Architecture

Ephesians 2:11–16

First Missionary Baptist Church · Huntsville, Alabama

“For he himself is our peace.” **Ephesians 2:14**

Today we will

- 01 Understand why the cross is central to reconciliation — and reconciliation to the cross
- 02 Walk through the historical tension between Jews and Gentiles
- 03 Ask what tensions might exist between Christians today
- 04 Create a list of tensions that the cross of Calvary dissolved

Opening question: tell your neighbor what happened with the step you wrote down yesterday.

WE KNOW THIS GAME.



We sort by who we perceive to be like us.

The Church was not built by a draft. It is the result of a graft.





The danger we know — and the one we don't

SPLITTING *the danger we know*

- It's loud — it calls meetings and takes votes.
- It leaves a scar everybody can see.
- And because we can see it, we know to grieve it.

SORTING *the danger we don't*

- It's quiet — it never calls a single meeting.
- It just picks a row, a service, a table of people like us.
- And because nothing “happened,” we call the distance peace.

Sorting is a quiet and subtle form of division. It seems harmless — but it is as offensive to the purpose of the cross as splitting.

Check your circle: *the last member you called · the last member at your table · the member who knows your struggles. How many of them are basically you?*

Hold on to this

Peace is a person before it is a feeling. Not the absence of conflict — an active unity forged at the cross. He himself is our peace.

The cross made one new humanity. Nobody promoted, nobody demoted: equally sinful, and grace equally available — to us and to others.

We don't split anymore — we sort. Quiet, subtle division — as offensive to the purpose of the cross as splitting. Devotion, not subscription.

The brand cannot carry the weight. Only the greater thing — Christ himself — can hold a diverse people together.

Hold on to this

Dead people don't need improvement — they need resurrection. Salvation is God's work from beginning to end. But God.

You are God's poiema — his artwork, not a repair job. Good works are the fruit, never the root.

Obedience is not invention — it is discovery. In verse 2 we walked; in verse 10 we walk. Same verb, different road.

The portrait is unfinished without reconciliation. Among the works prepared beforehand is the work of peace — tomorrow we watch the Artist paint it.

FOUNDATIONS FOR RECONCILIATION · DAY THREE

The Corporate Architecture

Ephesians 2:17–22

First Missionary Baptist Church · Huntsville, Alabama

“...no longer strangers and aliens... members of the household of God.” **Ephesians 2:19**

Today we will

- 01 Understand the collection of believers as a dwelling place for God
- 02 See how the history between Jews and Gentiles worked against God's corporate design
- 03 Evaluate the current architecture of our life together
- 04 Create a list of ways you can enlist in helping this vision become a reality

Opening question: if our church were completely reconciled, what would it look like? What would worship be like? What impact could it have?



“In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” — Ephesians 2:22

This sanctuary is not the dwelling place. We are.



Hold on to this

One door, one Spirit, one Father. No membership levels. No subscription tiers. From strangers, to citizens, to household.

Christ the cornerstone sets the alignment. And the construction is still ongoing.

Atonement lets God get to us. Salvation is not our climbing a ladder up to God; it is God bringing us into himself. He wants to move in.

Enlist. Your influence and your network are building materials. Name one concrete thing you will do to help build the vision of a unified church.

The closing prayer is printed on your sheet — we pray it together.