

Sunday theme – **One in Christ**

Read Ephesians 2: 11 – 22

1. Paul begins this passage by inviting his readers (Gentiles) to consider that there were formerly simply two kinds of people, namely (1) the nation Israel (the circumcised), and (2) everyone else.

1a. Do you agree, or do you see it as not that simple?

1b. What has happened that changed the status of both nation Israel and everyone else?

1c. If we bring this up-to-date and substitute nation Israel with Church of Christ, does this validate or invalidate Paul's opening?

2. In verse 14 Paul writes that Christ's death has destroyed the barrier, the hostility between the two groups.

2a. Do you feel there is hostility today between the two groups? If so, why do you think this is?

2b. Do we (the church) play any part in possible hostility or friction? If so, how do we, or even should we reduce this?

3. Verses 15 & 16 are the centre of this passage – one new humanity (Paul writes 'new creation' elsewhere).

3a. Where is this new humanity to be found?

3b. Therefore, where can it not be found?

4. Verses 19-22. In Christ there is (is to be) unity and equality.

4a. What does this have to say about differences of opinion/approach within the church?

4b. What does this say about new Christians in church or younger age members of the church?

4c. What about different church denominations? How does this fit in with unity in the body of Christ?

4d. What positive actions can we take personally, and as a church, to avoid being a source of disunity?

5. Read and take the comfort and encouragement which God and Paul intends from verse 22.

(Bible used = NIV 2011 translation)

St James Church, Taunton – Roger Fenton – 2018