

*Sermon Questions for Life Groups*

***Divine Intervention: Part 2 (Eph. 2:11-22)***

***Pastor John Mahaffey***

**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

*These questions are generated by several authors for Life Group discussions  
or family or personal devotions*

1. From Ephesians 2:11-13, Paul reminds the Gentiles at the church in Ephesus of their former status without Christ. Also read Galatians 5:4 and Colossians 1:21; share with your group of any experiences you may have had of being 'alienated' from others, whether it be within family, friends, co-workers or even society in general. How do these previous experiences help you understand our former situation with Christ?
2. How do you respond to hostility / barriers presented to you in your life? Have you ever created them?
3. Many people are visibly "far away" from God, while we wrongly assume that others are not. Is there a sense that every person has at one point been "far away"? Consider this in the context of the two lost sons of Luke 15.
4. Referring to Ephesians 2: 11, in the world today, there are ethnic, social, economic and nationalistic barriers, etc. that millions of people deal with everyday. What are possible barriers and their causes between brothers and sisters in the church today and how can we help to overcome them so as to live as a true family in Christ?
5. Before Christ came the division between Jew and Gentile was insurmountable. What indications of the extent of this division do we read in these verses? What words does Paul use to describe how alienated Gentiles were from Jews and how desperate their situation was? This religious division became racist in nature – what words indicate this?
6. How did God deal with this situation through Christ's coming? How was this division dismantled by Christ? How does the cross of Christ reconcile Jew and Gentile to each other? What is it about the cross that changes people's attitudes toward others different than themselves?

7. How do the three metaphors used in verses 19-22 show the complete equality of privilege that Gentile believers enjoy in Christ with those of Jewish birth?
  
8. What is God's stated purpose in verses 15-16? What is this "new man" that he has created? What "new humanity" would you expect to find in a person claiming to be a Christian? Is this a new way for you to picture the church?
  
9. What are some reasons that the church today is considered to be a "miracle"?
  
10. Pastor John noted that "you can't tamper with the foundation if you want the building to stay up". What threats were there in the past, and what issues threaten to undermine this foundation in our world today? How can we ensure that our foundation remains steadfast?