

Sermon Based Small Group Questions

Displaying God's Wisdom - Ephesians 3:7-20



Opening

1. A study was done a few years ago in the U.S on people who chose to live in multi-cultural neighbourhoods. It found that people who deliberately moved into these areas still found themselves hanging out with people who shared their ethnicity. Why do you think this is?
2. Describe a time where you experienced the rich diversity of the church. What stands out to you most about that experience?

Engaging

Read Ephesians 3:7-20

1. In verse 8, after naming his inadequacy, Paul describes the task of sharing the gospel as a grace given to him.
 - a. What words would you use to describe the task of sharing the gospel?
 - b. How do we go about cultivating this perspective on sharing the gospel?
2. Preaching, for Paul, is sharing “the boundless riches of Christ.” What comes to mind when you think of the riches that come with being in Christ?
 - a. Which of these riches do you think is least understood by our non-believing neighbours?

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3. What exactly is the manifold wisdom of God in verse 10 (take a moment to check various translations)? How is it related to the mystery Paul describes in the previous verses?

4. J.D Greaser writes this in an article on the unity and diversity of the church: *“based on our Facebook feeds, many people are all about racial reconciliation but don’t really do anything about it. They are what one of our pastors calls “slactivists,” which means they champion things on Facebook that they don’t live out in real life. One of the best ways we can demonstrate the wisdom and power of God is being known for our unity-in-diversity, when we move beyond virtue signaling and slactivism and into gospel community.”*
 - a. Take a few moments reflect on the state of the church today. What are main obstacles that keep us from being unified?

 - b. Which if these obstacles are you most likely to prop up?

 - c. What practical steps can we take towards fostering a diverse-yet-unified church (especially in regards to ethnicity)?

5. In verse 10, we read that when Jews and Gentiles live in meaningfully unity, it wisdom of God is made known to the rulers and authorities. How exactly does this work?

6. In verse 13, Paul draws attention to the reality that sharing the gospel often results in suffering. What particular ways do you think we are called to suffer as the church of Christ in Canada?

Close in Prayer