

## ① Missional Community Life

### INTRODUCTION | Peace in Christ

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For the next four weeks, we will study the Scripture together on the topic of “Missional Community Life.” How can we experience the grace of the gospel within the context of community? We are going to look at it in three-fold: What is our goal in pursuing a missional community life, what is hindering the formation of community life, and how can we overcome this problem in order to grow as the missional community?

### SCRIPTURE | Ephesians 2:11-22 (ESV)

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<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands- <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

### QUESTIONS |

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1. (v.13-18) The Bible says Jesus Christ brought reconciliation [Peace “Shalom” in Hebrew] to two parties who were divided by a wall of hostility. What can we say about the result of peace brought by the cross of Jesus Christ?
2. (v.19-22) What is the community that has been created by the peace of Christ called in today’s passage? How do they represent the nature of the community that has been brought forth by Christ’s peace?
3. (v.14-16) The community that has been formed by Christ’s work seeks to challenge any problem that may prevent the group from maturing. What are some of the things that may interfere with our community life? Why does “the law of commandments expressed in ordinances” become hostile to the community life? (Ref. C.S. Lewis)

4. How did God take away the hostility between two opposing parties and bring about reconciliation through peace? Please share with one another if you experienced reconciliation through the peace of Christ with someone you struggled to get along.
  
5. The passage emphasizes the importance of remembering the gospel of the cross, applying it onto life, and reminding one another of the gospel in encouragement. According to the gospel of the cross of Christ, who is God and what has He done for us? Thus, what would that make us (you)?
  
6. (v.19-22) If your community (group) is called “the household of God” and “the holy temple,” what are some of the specific encouragements we can give one another? Let’s share.

## Reading (Reference)

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### **C.S. Lewis *Mere Christianity* (p.91)**

What Satan put into the heads of our remote ancestors was the idea that they could "be like gods"-could set up on their own as if they had created themselves-be their own masters-invent some sort of happiness for themselves outside God, apart from God. And out of that hopeless attempt has come nearly all that we call human history-money, poverty, ambition, war, prostitution, classes, empires, slavery-the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

## UPCOMING EVENTS |

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GraceCity Gospel (9/8 & 9/22)

Lunch Time Meeting: Marunouchi (9th), Otemachi (10th, 18th), Kasumigaseki (17th)

Bento Project Picnic (20th)

\*September is a community group month. Please take this opportunity to join a group.

\*Share the Bread:

- We take offerings for Bento Project
- Volunteers needed
- Picnic@ Koukyo Gaien on Sept. 21st (Sat)