



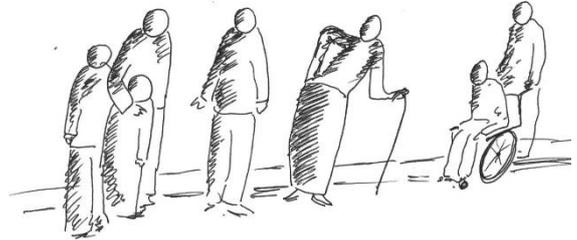
## B REVEALING WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

# Unity in Christ



## Why use this Bible study?

This Bible study can help us explore God's desire for unity amongst Christians. It helps to address discrimination against certain groups of people.



## Neither Jew nor Gentile . . .

**Read Romans 10:12-13.** These verses clearly show us that God does not discriminate between different groups of people. His blessing is for all of us.

**Read Ephesians 2:11-22.** This passage emphasises that all people can have equal access to God, and that his peace affects our relationships with other people. The Jewish people took pride in their circumcision, which was a sign of God's covenant with Israel. The Ephesian Christians were not Jews by birth.



## Key points

- God looks at all people in the same way, with love and acceptance. We should do the same.



## Questions for discussion

- What assurance does Paul offer the Ephesians in verses 11-13?
- What do verses 14-18 say about hostility between Gentiles and God, and Gentiles and Jews? What is the unifying force?
- In verses 19-22, how are the Ephesian Christians described? What vital role does Jesus play?
- How does this passage challenge you in your relationship with other Christians? How does this passage challenge you in your relationship with Christians from a different culture?

**Read Colossians 3:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.** This passage lists many different types of people and tells us that Christ is in all of them and all of them are in Christ. Read this passage again, out loud, replacing words such as Greek and Jew, in Colossians 3:11, with the names of groups of people who you could say are different to you.

Awareness-raising

Children &amp; youth

Climate &amp; environment

Conflict &amp; peacebuilding

Corruption &amp; governance

Disaster risk management

Discrimination &amp; inclusion

Food &amp; livelihoods

Gender &amp; sexual violence

Health &amp; HIV

Influencing decision-makers

Migration &amp; trafficking

Water, sanitation &amp; hygiene

**Read Romans 15:5-6.**

- Why does Paul emphasise the need for unity?
- Some people use the phrase 'Unity in diversity, rather than uniformity.' Discuss what this means in the light of the Bible passages you have just read.

**Reflection**

Ask God to show you if you have wrong assumptions or wrong relationships with Christians from a different background to yours. What is he saying you should do about this?

**Notes**

This Bible study was first published in Tearfund (2003) Roots 4: Peace-building within our communities [http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/peace-building\\_within\\_our\\_communities/](http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/peace-building_within_our_communities/)

**Related tools**

- A1 – Revealing conflict: information for facilitators [*A1: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]
- B – Christ triumphs over conflict (Bible study) [*B: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]
- B – Love your enemies (Bible study) [*B: Conflict & peacebuilding-2*]
- C2 – Analysing conflict [*C2: Conflict & peacebuilding-1*]

Awareness-raising
Children & youth
Climate & environment
Conflict & peacebuilding
Corruption & governance
Disaster risk management
Discrimination & inclusion
Food & livelihoods
Gender & sexual violence
Health & HIV
Influencing decision-makers
Migration & trafficking
Water, sanitation & hygiene