

## Series: “Ephesians”

“How To Win Friends And Influence People...God’s Way!”

Ephesians 2:11-22

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In 1936, Dale Carnegie wrote a book entitled “How to Win Friends and Influence People”. It is a book all about getting along with other people. It became a best seller and for 10 years running it stayed on “The New York Times” best sellers list. It is still a popular book today and you will still find many companies and corporations requiring their employees to read the book. Obviously...so they will get along better with their fellow employees.

### SLIDE – Book



As of today it has been in print 72 years and has sold over 15 million copies. You may be familiar with it and you may have even read the book. I have! And if you have never taken the opportunity to read the book I would personally highly encourage you to do so. In fact, most of the principles talked about in the book are simply Biblical principles explained and illustrated in every day language so people can apply them to our lives.

In fact, how many of you have read the book? That’s what I thought.

### SLIDE – Church Bible pg. 1157

As we are studying together on Sunday mornings here at Bethany the book to the Ephesians we have come to a passage of Scripture that I have put on it the title of “*How To Win Friends And Influence People...God’s Way!*” Because, let’s face it...as good as Dale Carnegie’s book is...it is simply God’s principles put into different words. God wrote the Bible years before Dale Carnegie ever thought of writing his book and as much as any human being tries to enhance God’s book and God’s principles they have simply put into different words what God has already given to us in the Bible.

Take your Bibles, please and open them to the New Testament book of Ephesians 2. If you didn’t bring your Bible with you today I would encourage you to reach forward and grab that burgundy colored Bible and turn to page 1157. (1<sup>st</sup> Service [Back in Video Café](#))

– Raise hands for a Bible and someone will come by and hand you one! Keep it up!

John D. Rockefeller was quoted as saying:

SLIDE –

*“I will pay more for ‘the ability to deal with people’ than for any other ability under the sun.”*

Ephesians 2:11-22 teaches us about this ability!

In three simple exhortations God unfolds for us His plan for dealing with any person you and I ever come in contact with.

Would YOU like to know “*How To Win Friends And Influence People...God’s Way?*”

It is all wrapped up in three words here in these verses. I’m going to give them to you as we read the verses so if you mark your Bible you may want to put a ‘box’ around them or ‘circle’ them or whatever you do to make them stand out to you the next time you read this text.

Follow along with me...

SLIDE –

*Therefore, **remember** that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men) — remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

SLIDE –

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.*

SLIDE –

*His purpose was to create in Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to **reconcile** both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.*

## SLIDE –

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*

## SLIDE –

*In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.*

*“How Do We Win Friends And Influence People...God's Way?”*

*“How do we 'get along with' other people...God's way?”*

## SLIDE – REMEMBER B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_

Remember Before Christ!

And what I mean by that is rather obvious...if you want to get along with other people the first place to start is to always remember what your life was like before you came to know Christ as your Savior. That seems to have a way of keeping us humbling around others. Like the old saying goes: *“The ground is level at the cross!”*

Let me give us a little history of what was taking place in Biblical times so we are aware of what is being said here in Ephesians...

If we had been living in Biblical times we would clearly know that there were only two classifications of people in the world:

- Jews and...
- Gentiles

It made no difference what your race or color was. You were either a Jew or a Gentile. And the ground was anything but level for these two groups.

Now unless you grew up in a highly prejudice area of the country or the world this concept is a little bit difficult to understand. So let me see if I can clarify how 'drastic' this division was between these two people groups.

SLIDE – William Barclay (in his Bible commentary) writes:

*“The Jew had an immense contempt for the Gentile. ‘The Gentile,’ said the Jews ‘was created by God to be fuel for the fires of hell!’”*

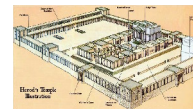
When a Gentile mother was giving birth to a child it was unlawful for a Jewish woman to give her aid. You see, that would mean a Jew was involved in bringing another Gentile into the world.

And this hatred was far from one-sided. In fact, in most cities there was a Jewish section of town and a Gentile section of town. They couldn't live in close proximity with each other.

The Gentiles wouldn't even let the Jews set up shop to sell their goods in the common areas of town. Talk about segregation!

And when it came to public worship, well don't mix the two! In fact, that is precisely what the Jewish Temple emphasized...segregation! Recall what the Temple looked like for a moment...

## SLIDE –



Court of the Priests (Inner Court or Naos)

Court of Israel

Descend 5 steps to the Court of Women

Descend 14 more steps to a wall (60 in. thick) that led to the Court of the Gentiles.

1935 Sign - *“No Gentile may enter within the barricade which surrounds the sanctuary and enclosure. Anyone who is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”*

## SLIDE –



## SLIDE –



## SLIDE –



And why take the time to explain this? Because it is precisely this prejudice, this segregation, this grudge, this hatred that has caused each of these people groups to NOT get along! Trust me, they were not trying in the least to win friends and influence people!

And what the Apostle Paul is trying to get across to these folks (both Jews and Gentiles) is “the ground is level at the cross.” He is saying..

- Hang up your grudges!
- Get along with each other!
- Quit thinking you are better than someone else!
- Don’t quarrel!
- Love each other!

And how do we do this?

### SLIDE – Remember BC!

READ vv. 11-15 (Read & Explain)

You see, when we - Remember ‘Before Christ’ -

- We will give grace to others around us because we remember we need grace from God!
- We won’t be so quick to jump to a conclusion because we remember often need God to give us a break too!
- We will want to talk with someone before we make a judgment call because I’m quite sure others don’t know all the facts surrounding what I just said or did either.

### SLIDE – Remembering BC will:

- Keep me humble
- Keep me gentle
- Keep me kind
- Keep me united
- Keep me forgiving
- Keep me non-judgmental
- Keep me peaceful

The second exhortation to get along with other people is to...

### SLIDE – RECONCILE P\_\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_\_\_

Reconcile Personal Differences!

READ v. 16

You see, because we are now ‘one body’ we are not to have competing parts! Do you get the metaphor God uses here? It is of a “body”! A body doesn’t work against itself! It all works in unison; as one; together!

READ vv. 17-18

My goodness, if God, through Jesus sacrificial death on the cross

...has brought about ‘peace’ between two people who BC (before Christ) by getting them saved - Why are there wars and quarrels among us?

LISTEN: Also, if v. 18 “through Christ” you and I both stand as equals in the presence of God the Father...then my goodness we ought to be able to get along with each other on planet earth!

NOW: What is the way we do this? We RECONCILE!

### SLIDE – Reconcile = To bring together again!

To settle; put to rights; bring together; square; reunite; resolve; merge; patch up; clear up; straighten out; mend!

*“How Do We Win Friends And Influence People...God’s Way?”*

*“How do we ‘get along with’ other people...God’s way?”*

We REMEMBER BC

We RECONCILE PD

Allow me to pause a moment here?

I’m afraid sitting right here today we have too many people who are not “winning friends and influencing people”.

I’m afraid sitting here today we have too many people who are not “getting along with other people”.

- It may be your husband
- It may be your wife
- It may be your child
- It may be your mother
- It may be your father
- It may be your friend
- It may be your neighbor
- It may be someone in this church

Is this passage talking to you today?

Are YOU the one that is ‘far away’? (v. 13)

Is there a rift between you and someone else that you need to get rectified?

Can I share with you a sister passage to Ephesians in regards to this?

### SLIDE – Matthew 5:23-24

*Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar (worshipping) and there remember that your brother has something against you (there is a rift), leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.*

LISTEN: Do you need to reconcile with anyone today?

The ground is level at the cross!

Take care of it with that person! It will bring peace!

Here is another verse...

**SLIDE – Ephesians 4:32**

*Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.*

REMEMBER BC

RECONCILE PD

The third exhortation to get along with other people is to...

**SLIDE – RAISE H\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_**

Raise Holy Temple!

*“How Do We Win Friends And Influence People...God’s Way?”*

*“How do we ‘get along with’ other people...God’s way?”*

We RAISE our HOLY TEMPLE!

You say, “Corey, what on earth are you talking about?”

Here is what this means...

READ vv. 19-22

Comments...

**SLIDE –**



This means now ‘everyone’ (Jew & Gentile) can go right into the presence of God. You see...the ground is level at the cross! Paul was actually telling the Jews and the Gentiles that they were now ONE! No more rifts; no more divisions; no more grudges; no more ‘better than’; no more separation; you are one; equals; together!

Why? Because...

- With Jesus Christ BOTH of you can look at each other differently;
- With Jesus Christ BOTH of you offer each other forgiveness;
- With Jesus Christ BOTH of you are on the same level and realize neither is perfect;
- BOTH have received grace from Jesus Christ so BOTH can give grace to each other!

Right here, the Apostle Paul, in the midst of teaching us one of the greatest ‘historical truths’ - that the Jew and Gentile (because of the difference Jesus Christ makes in their lives) no longer need to be at odds against one another. They can worship side by side - equals - level at the foot of the cross!

**SLIDE – RAISE HOLY TEMPLE**

So WE, because of what Christ has done in our lives, can put to rest all bitterness and hatred and anger and malice towards each other and worship side by side - equals - level at the foot of the cross!

- Do you need to work out any differences with someone today?
- Are there some barriers that you have with someone that you need to reconcile with?
- Do you need to stand with someone at the cross today, realizing that you both came from the same past - sin! And that God has forgiven you both as Christians so you may as well forgive each other - reconcile - and enjoy the closeness God designed for you to have.

Maybe today you will take the steps to get that cleared up!

BOW...