Lesson 7: Racial Reconciliation
Sermon Date: November 18
Text: Ephesians 2:11 - 22

1. To gain some perspective and establish context, read through Ephesians chapters 1and 2. What are the main points Paul is making here?

2. Chapter 2 begins by reminding us that we were "dead in the trespasses and sins" in which we once walked. He then continues in verse 5 to establish that we now live because of God's grace. What does this say about (a) where we all stood prior to the cross, and (b) where we all stand now?

3. Verses 11 through 22 are about being 'one in Christ.' Based on this passage, what was the challenge the early church faced in this call for unity?

4. How do you think the practicing Christian Jews felt as Gentiles started coming to their churches? Are there parallels to how we may view visitors coming to Hillside to join our fellowship? Explain.

5. What is at the root of this conflict between peoples of different cultures, race, and customs? How does this passage address this root issue?

6. How do you face issues of racial conflict in your everyday life?

7. Paul first speaks of our sole dependence on the "grace" of God (vs. 5-9), but then calls us to do "good works" for God (v. 10). How do we reconcile this apparent difference (grace versus works) as we consider the challenge to reconcile our differences with each other?