

# 7 One new humanity

Mark 11:15-17; Isaiah 56:1-7; Ephesians 2:11-22

## Key verse

“His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.” (Eph. 2:15-16 NIV)

## Getting started

Discuss: What do you find challenging about the integration of people from other nations and cultures as a local community and church?



## Going deeper

### Read Mark 11:15-17 & Isaiah 56:1-7

- 1) Why do you believe Jesus was so incensed by the court of the gentiles being used as a marketplace?
- 2) As we've seen over the previous weeks Isaiah continues to be a significant source of information about God's plan for the nations. Why not read Isaiah for yourself over the coming weeks with this theme in mind. In these verses, what does God promise any foreigner or eunuch?



- 3) In the first century, gentiles were excluded from the inner courts of the temple. As well as declaring that in the future his house would be a house of prayer for all nations, in Isaiah 56:1-7, what else does God promise foreigners and eunuchs in regards to his temple?
- 4) Briefly read Mark 15:37-39. How is Jesus' death shown as giving gentiles access to God?

## Read Ephesians 2:11-22

- 5) Throughout these verses, as gentiles, what words does Paul use to describe our state before being brought near to God by the blood of Christ?
- 6) Think: how has Jesus by fulfilling the law enabled Jews and gentiles to be reconciled and become one new humanity?
- 7) Jesus is now our temple. It is through his body, given for us at the cross, that we now have access to true worship of God. But in verses 19-22, how can we also now be called God's temple?



## Taking it home

From what we've learnt, how can we as a church demonstrate to the world the reconciliation of all people now possible in Christ?

Discuss & Pray through the implications of this study for our lives.