

ONE FROM THE HEART THE MISSING PEACE

Missing Pieces

When assembling an item from IKEA, you have two options:

- + Assembly by following the instruction manual
- + Assembly by 'common sense'

The only issue with the latter is some of IKEA's assembly isn't all common sense and often you are left with missing pieces.

There are missing pieces across the Western and Australian church and today we are going to look at the next generation as one of these missing pieces. My hope today is to remind you of God's grace that saves, God's grace that unites and God's grace that builds, through the great peacemaker, Jesus.

Grace that Saves

Paul makes it clear in Ephesians 2:1-10, that God's grace has saved us leading us to new life. This is what we have celebrated over the past month here at Riverlife as 53 people have been baptised.

BEFORE CHRIST

- + Dead in transgressions and sin
- + Followed the ways of this world
- + Followed the ruler of the kingdom of the air
- + Gratifying the cravings of the flesh
- + Deserving of wrath

BECAUSE OF CHRIST

- + Made us alive
- + Showed great love for us
- + Rich in mercy
- + By grace that you have been saved
- + Raised us up with Christ
- + Seated us with Him in the heavenly places
- + Incomparable riches of His grace

What is your testimony? How is God reminding you of His grace, made available through Jesus the Son of God?

Grace that Unites

Across the Western church there are four main divisions:

- + Political
- + Race
- + Economics
- + Generational

Through Jesus' life, death and resurrection, all people of all backgrounds and upbringings can come together in unity.

Peace between political divisions, races and people groups, socio-economic backgrounds and generations because:

- + Jesus is the peace (v. 14)
- + Jesus makes peace (v.15)
- + Jesus preaches peace (v. 17)

Unity isn't some warm and fuzzy, lovey dovey, leftist philosophy.

Unity is at the heart of God, who Himself is a unity in diversity.

He longs to destroy dividing walls of hostility between people to create a family of believers who are united around the person of peace, Jesus.

Grace that Builds

The gentiles are no longer foreigners or strangers but are part of the family of God!

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...”

EPHESIANS 2:19

God’s grace, His empowering presence, now forms us, young and old, black and white, rich and poor, into the holy building of the church.

The church isn’t a \$21M facility, it’s you and me, Holy Spirit filled believers who come together in love to worship God, grow in discipleship to Him and then share Him on mission. And without the youth, and the kids of this family, we are building towards an empty church for future generations.

You are the Missing Peace

Just like the IKEA instructions, Scripture has outlined how we are to step into becoming a family, here at Riverlife. We have the option to wing it and to use our common sense, but we risk missing precious pieces of the family.

“I am writing this not to shame you but to warn you as my dear children. Even if you had ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me.”

1 CORINTHIANS 4:14-16

“Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

1 THESSALONIANS 2:8

When we come to Jesus, He requires all of us. Your life. Your love. Your time.

All of us are called to make peace with one another. All of us are called to disciple one another. All of us are called to a missional heart and lifestyle as we share the riches of His grace with this world.

Response

Who are you personally discipling? Who are you a mother or father to?

Legacy isn't lived, it's left.

Our legacy is left in our children and the next generation of followers of Jesus! It takes intentionality, but it really is possible to unite, for it's all by God's grace.

"One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

PSALM 145:4

Questions for Discussion

1. God's grace saves. What is your story of coming to know Jesus? Can you explain it in 30 seconds?
2. God's grace unites. What is the biggest division that you see in the church? How can you be part of the solution in bringing unity in this area?
3. God's grace builds. What are you bringing to the family as Riverlife "rises to become a holy temple in the Lord" (Eph 2:21)?
4. Who are you personally discipling? If you can't think of anyone, maybe now it's time to start.
5. Read 1 Corinthians 4:14-16. What stands out to you?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:8-12. What stands out to you?