

# Global Culture

## ***God's Plan for the Nations***

Ephesians 2:11-18

September 10, 2023

**Introduction:** Are you a thermometer or a thermostat? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote that for early Christians "the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society." We're struggling today with race. Are we struggling in ways that just reflect society or that reflect Jesus and the unique promise of his good news to transform society through followers like you? "Global Culture" is one of our Five Values at UPC. It's time not just to take the temperature but flip a switch.

**Prayer:** Father, we are so grateful for the death (end) of hostility described in this text. Amen.

**Read:** Ephesians 2:11-18.

**Review:** Were you able to able to experience gentleness this past week?

### ***Discussion:***

1. Who does Paul refer to as "uncircumcised" and "circumcised"?
2. Do you live as though you have been "brought near" (v.13) through the blood of Christ? Explain.
3. What does one new man (new humanity) mean to you? Why is this important in God's plan for the nations of the world? What is the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility referred to by Paul?
4. What is the result of the work of Christ? Can you think of how Jesus preached peace in his ministry?

**Application:** Let God help you view the new humanity that Jesus promised.

**Prayer:** Father, we ask that we would know in our heart that Jesus has made peace of this issue. Amen.