

RADIANT RECONCILERS!

Scripture used: [Ephesians 2:1-16 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This week we were blessed to have Lead Pastor Gary Gaddini of Peninsula Covenant Church preach about reconciliation to God and to others. He spoke about the “headlines” in Paul’s letter to the Ephesians, and how it helps us understand the model Jesus wanted for the church. These four messages are very different from what we hear from the world. Paul writes to us about the unity and life that we can all find in Jesus, and how important it is to live out this model on a daily basis. As we approach the celebration of Easter and Jesus’ triumph over death, Pastor Gary gave us perspective on how radically different and transformative God is, and how much we all owe to the almighty God who loves us so much that He became flesh and took on our sins so that we could become His greatest masterpiece!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Humanity has rebelled. We cut ourselves off from our Lifeline.** There is the realm of the spirit and of life, and then the realm of the earth and death. Because of humanity’s rebellion, we are spiritually dead. This means that — on our own — we are not able to respond to God. The forces of the world cannot offer us life. Life can only come from God.
- 2) **God did the unthinkable when humanity revealed. He ran after us!** When we broke away from God, that wasn’t the end of the story. Because of His great love and mercy for us, God pursued us. As people who are spiritually dead, we need life. Nothing short of a divine intervention can fix the situation. That’s exactly what God offers us. Jesus didn’t come to make bad people good; He came to make dead people alive. He is an outside source of life who comes in and awakens all that is dormant within us. We “superbloom” in our relationships and our good works, just like a barren desert that blooms in the rain.
- 3) **In Christ we are restored and repurposed Poemas.** We are the handiwork of God. Artists are known by their greatest works, and we are that work for God (this is the term “poema” in Greek - the masterpiece an artist is known for). We matter more to him than anything else in all of creation, from the stars to the angels! We prove the greatness of God by being dead but choosing life through Him. This choice makes each one of us a masterpiece.
- 4) **In Christ we are restored and repurposed reconcilers.** The church was designed to be a model of unity. Two come together into one and dividing walls of hostility are torn down, whether that means Jews and Gentiles two thousands years ago or racial divisions and political divisions today. There are no divisions in Christ. We become new through Jesus, and in that newness we offer a disruptive model for other people. Humans can join together as one when we choose to reconcile through God, and the church is designed to offer and express this hope of reconciliation to the world.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - The world throws lots of headlines at us each day. These tempt us to despair. A better way to approach each day is by seeing the world through the headlines of the people we know in the church who love big. That restores our hope and reminds us of our obligations to offer a better model to others. What are the practical headlines in your life right now that speak of God’s work in you and through you?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read through [Ephesians 2:1-16 \(NIV\)](#). We are not here on earth for our own purposes. As Jesus followers, we must look to God to understand what we should do with our lives. Reflect on the “headlines” that Pastor Gary taught about. Pastor Gary also gave several great illustrations that God may have used to give you a concrete picture of His work in your life, from the “superbloom” in the desert to the statue of David carved by Michelangelo, which reminds us that we are God’s “poema,” or masterpiece. Which of these headlines from Ephesians, or these illustrations of their meaning, particularly resonate with your heart right now? Why? How is God calling you to respond?
- 3) **DO** - As a church we are now in our [40 Days of Prayer & Fasting](#). This is a great time to create space to deepen our relationship with God. [Sign up today](#) to receive daily devotionals and messages from Pastor Hurmon as we approach our Easter Celebration. Reflect on this question that Pastor Gary asked us: What are the good works God has recreated you for right now? Join us next Sunday as Pastor Hurmon begins a new series, “Choose Joy!”