



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: ***Living on the Hyphen***

Speaker: ***Riccardo Stewart, Pastor of Redemption Church in Tempe, Arizona***

Scripture: **Ephesians 2**

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. 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. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:1-18 NIV

Sermon Outline:

- Growing up with a Hyphen
- Diversity within community
- Grace not only saves, but empowers us to come together in loving works of service.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, guest pastor, Riccardo Stewart, shared on community out of Ephesians 2.

Sermon Questions:

1. What words or phrases from this scripture passage resonated in you as you read them? Why? How does this scripture connect for you the topic that was discussed today? How so?

2. How has your family of origin, the family you grew up in, helped or hinder your to live within a diverse community.

3. How is God inviting you to grow in your relationships within a diverse community?

4. How is God inviting you to recognize your need for mercy? What areas in your life you can use more of God's grace?

5. Where in your life can you see your need for the evidence of Jesus work in breaking down dividing walls.