



**This week at Magdalen Road we did an overview of the letter and some of the applications we've been chewing over the past couple of months**

We began our time by considering that, like a show-home on a building site, the local church is a glimpse of what's to come when all of creation is united under the headship of Christ. Now we enjoy and live under his headship, *then* all of reality will. To look at the church now ought to be a taste of what will be seen then.

#### **A place where the gospel of grace is at work**

We looked especially at 2v8-10 considering that our salvation is all of God; it's all his grace. We have a tendency, a default heart setting, to seek to either want to earn it, or else to pay him back for it. However, we said, we are not saved by works, but rather are God's work created to good works. Not to 'get us in the family' but rather, because we now already are.

*- why do you think we struggle with grace? How is that seen in our daily Christian life?*

#### **A place where the gospel of grace unites diverse people**

We noted how Paul then goes onto to talk (in 2v11-22) about our need to maintain and promote unity within diverse churches. In the example in Ephesus it was Jewish and Gentile Christians, for us the unity will probably mostly be seen across different fault-lines.

- why is unity so important in Ephesians? What does dis-unity do?*
- at MRC where do you think there are underlying fault lines? How do you / can you seek to maintain unity?*
- any thoughts on how we can better engage with the diversity of East Oxford?*

#### **A place where the gospel of grace grows us to be like Jesus**

We spoke in chapter 4v17- of the need to remember again who we now are in Christ (like a pig farmer who's become a surgeon we keep turning up to the operation room in our wellies). We noted some hypothetical examples of different people who, rather than living different lives, still went with their muscle memories and old way of living.

- how does the gospel transform how we now live?*
- how can we get better at doing this?*