

Hope Presbyterian Church
Adult Faith Formation Sermon-Based Bible Study

October 25, 2026

“Division” - #1 in the series
Bringing It To The Table: Reconciliation Over Rhetoric

Scripture Text (NIV)
Ephesians 2:11-22



1. Consider how the phrase “bringing it to the table” describes the process of coming together to contribute a skill, resource, or experience to a group, discussion, project, or relationship. The “table” in this phrase refers to a shared space where people convene to exchange ideas, solve problems, or even share a meal together in community.
 - What’s an example of “bringing it to the table” that you’ve experienced?
 - What aspects of “bringing it to the table” were helpful? Challenging?
2. **Read Ephesians 2:11-13.**

By reminding the Ephesians about the Jewish practice of circumcision, which physically identified them as being separate from the Gentiles, Paul brings the topic of coming together “to the table.”

 - How might they have reacted to his use of circumcision as an example of division?
 - Why might it have been difficult to grasp the idea of God bringing people together from far and near “through the blood of Christ”?
3. **Re-read Ephesians 2:14-18.**

Anticipating that the Ephesians might struggle to see how those near and far could be brought together, Paul explains how Jesus’ death breaks down a “wall of hostility” that division creates.

 - Have you ever experienced a “wall of hostility” that caused division? What happened?
 - How do you respond to the idea that walls of hostility can create “categories” of people that keep us from seeing people as individuals?
4. **Read Ephesians 2:19-22.**

Paul declares that because Jesus is the source of peace, the Ephesians are no longer “foreigners or strangers but fellow citizens with God’s household.”

 - How do Paul’s words household, foundation, cornerstone, building, and temple help us understand the context of where “the table” resides?
 - In what ways do we at Hope model what bringing it to the table” means?
5. Consider the following statements that highlight the idea of *Bringing It to the Table: Reconciliation Over Rhetoric*:
 - We can have convictions without contempt.
 - We can have differences without becoming enemies.
 - Being around the table can make us neighbors.
 - Which statement resonates with you? Why?
6. How can we pray for you?