Open

Paul says we are God's masterpieces. What is your favorite piece of art? (even if it's velvet Elvis)

Discuss*

- How would you summarize the message of this chapter?
- What were some likely divisions between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians during this time?
- What are some divisions you see between Christians today?
- Since through Jesus the barrier between those "near and far away" from God have been broken down, what responsibility do we have toward those who are far from God in our own culture?
- Explain the difference between "what should I be doing" and "who am I becoming." Which is harder for you?

Reflect

- Where do you see the grace of God at work in your life? How best can you extend that to others in your circle of influence?
- Based just on this passage, what should we pray about?

"Friendship requires a constant willingness to forgive each other for not being Christ and a willingness to ask Christ himself to be the true center.

When Christ does not mediate a relationship, that relationship easily becomes demanding, manipulating, oppressive, an arena for many forms of rejection."

~ Henri Nouwen

^{*}Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from either the sermon or the lesson with the group.