

**“Loving Those on the Inside”**  
**Sermon Reflection Questions January 31, 2010**  
**Amos 2:4-10, Unlocking the Old Testament**

For the next two weeks we are going to look at the way in which we treat two different groups of people. This week in the book of Amos we are going to look at the way we treat those within the church, and next week we will look at Micah and the way we treat those outside of the church.

1. God begins speaking through Amos in chapter 1 by listing several complaints against the surrounding pagan nations for the way in which they are treating other people. I can imagine that the Israelites in hearing God’s judgment against these nations would have no problem agreeing whole hearted with God’s condemnation of those nations.

a. As you look at some of the nations throughout the world, which nations do you find most despicable for the way in which they treat others?

b. As you look at sins that are committed by others which are not committed by you, which type of sins of others do you have the most disdain for?

2. After blasting several neighboring nations for the way in which they were treating other people, God turns his attention inward. In our main passage of Amos 2:4-10 God lays out his case against, the northern and the southern kingdoms of Israel.

a. As you read this passage and remember back to the message what are the five reasons God blasts Judah and Israel?

b. What are some parallels that could be drawn between the sins of Israel and Judah with our sins either within our country or as individuals?

3. The main point of my message was to use this passage to consider the way that we treat each other and our level of unity or disunity within the church.

a. Where have you seen other churches experience disunity within their congregation and how does that disunity show itself within the behavior of others.

b. What causes disunity? What will make a church more likely to experience disunity?

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4. Read the passages below, what do each of them teach us about the importance of unity within the church and/or how we can obtain that unity.

a. John 17:20-23

b. Romans 15:5-6

c. Ephesians 4:1-3

d. Colossians 3:12-15

e. 1 Peter 3:8-12

5. As we think about Indian River Presbyterian Church:

a. Where do we see places of unity and loving one another within the church?

b. Where do you see potential for growth in the area of loving one another and unity?

6. Where might God be calling you to help be an expression of unity and love for one another within the body of Christ?