

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 2:11-18 Paul presents 3 truths concerning the reconciliation and unity of the church.

- I. Gentiles, though alienated, were reconciled to God.**
 - A. Alienated from Christ (vs. 11-12a).**
 - B. Alienated from the nation of Israel (v. 12b).**
 - C. Alienated from the covenants (v. 12c).**
 - D. Alienated from hope (v. 12d).**
 - E. Alienated from God (v. 12e).**
 - F. But now reconciled by Christ's blood (v. 13).**

- II. Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled to God and each other by Christ.**
 - A. Christ is our peace: He has made Jew & Gentile to be one (v. 14a).**
 - B. Christ provides for peace: He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility (v. 14b).**
 - 1. How? By abolishing the laws expressed in ordinances that divided them (v. 15a).**
 - 2. Why?**
 - a. To create one new man instead of two (v.15b).**
 - b. To reconcile to God in one body through the cross (v. 16a).**
 - 3. To what end?**
 - a. To make peace (v. 15c).**
 - b. To kill the hostility (v. 16c).**
 - C. Christ preaches peace:**
 - 1. To whom? Jews & Gentiles (v. 17).**
 - 2. On what basis? Equal access to the Father in one Spirit (v. 18).**

- III. Reconciliation produces unity in the body of Christ.**
 - A. Fellow citizens of God's kingdom (v. 19a, b).**
 - B. Fellow members of God's household (v. 19c)**
 - C. Built together into God's temple (vs. 20-22).**

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 7, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 2:11-18

Memory Passage: Ephesians 2:11-18 (review 1:1-2:10)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:11-18.** What is the “therefore” in v. 11 there for (i.e. how does it function to connect 1-10 with 11ff)?
- (b) Explain what Paul says between the “remembers” of vs. 11 & 12. In other words, explain Paul’s parenthetical thought about Gentiles found between the 2 occurrences of the word “remember.” Be sure to include an explanation of Paul’s use of “flesh.”
- (c) Does the fact that Gentiles *used* to be separated from Christ mean that all Jews were *not* separated from Christ? Explain.
- (d) Why was it a disadvantage for Gentiles, before their salvation, to be “alienated from the commonwealth of Israel?”

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:11-18.** Continuing with Paul’s list of 5 disadvantages Gentiles had before their salvation (v. 12), explain what Paul is referring to when he says “covenants of promise” and why they used to be strangers to them.
- (b) What “hope” did the Jews possess that Gentiles prior to salvation did not?
- (c) Why were pre-redeemed Gentiles “without God?” Were the Jews the only ones who could be “with” God? Explain.
- (d) When were Gentiles floundering in these disadvantages (v. 11: “at one time” & v. 12: “at that time”)? Don’t miss the connection between these 2 phrases and “but now” in v. 13.
- (e) How do we apply these 5 disadvantages in our culture today, a culture in which Jews & Gentiles are not the focus?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:11-18.** Explain how & why the Gentiles were “once far off” and how that was remedied (“But now”).
- (b) How does the “For” which begins v. 14 tie what follows to what has preceded, and why is this connection important?
- (c) To which two groups does “both” refer in v. 14?
- (d) What “dividing wall” has been broken down, and to what “hostility” is being referred?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:11-18.** Explain the phrase, “by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances.”
- (b) How do you reconcile the truth of this phrase with the truths found in Matthew 5:17-18?
- (c) What is the “one new man” that has been created in Jesus, what are “the two” that have been replaced, and what is the peace that is established by this creation?
- (d) What does “reconcile” mean, why do both Jews & Gentiles need reconciled “to God,” and what does “the cross” have to do with this reconciliation?
- (e) When and how did Jesus “preach” peace to both Gentiles (“those who were far off”) and Jews (“those who were near”)?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Ephesians 2:11-18.** For what purpose does Paul tell believers to “remember” who they once were? What purpose does remembering have for believers today, especially in light of verses such as Philippians 3:13-14?
- (b) What “dividing walls of hostility” do you face today, and how does Jesus’ reconciling cross work break them down?
- (c) What implications does this passage’s emphasis on peace have for the way you live in your world each day? For the ministries of BCC?
- (d) Flesh out the implications of v. 16 for your own participation in the life & ministry of BCC.

DATE: May 7, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:11-18

Reconciled & Unified!