

Ephesians 2:11–22

- ¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—
- ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.
- ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
- ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,
- ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,
- ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.
- ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.
- ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
- ¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
- ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,
- ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,
- ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

What We Were and What We Are (Church. part 7)
Ephesians 2:11-22

INTRO:

The first part of **Ephesians 2** is about our individual salvation. Paul began in **verse 1** with who we were. We were dead in our trespasses and sin. In **verses 4-5**, we are now those who were made alive together with Christ and are saved, not by anything we do, but by the grace of God. **Verses 8-10** are famous and complete this individual section. At **verse 11-22** Paul looks at our salvation and entrance into the church in a corporate sense. We will consider who we were before Jesus came by, and who we are now.

I. What We Were (v. 11-12)

II. What We Are (v. 13-22)

I. What We Were (v. 11-12)

Ephesians 2:11-12 *“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”*

A. Paul commanded the Ephesian Christian to remember who they were before Christ came into their lives. The Apostle Paul more than any other Biblical writer reminded us to remember what we were before the Lord Jesus came into our lives.

He wrote in **Titus 3:3**,

“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”

B. There are five words describing our lost condition. (1) We were once Gentiles. In other words we grew up in ignorance of the true and living God. (2) We were the uncircumcision. We were not of the Old Testament covenant people of God, (3) We were *you were without Christ.* (4) We were *“being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise.”* (5) We *“Had no hope and without God in the world.”* We were lost, lost, lost, lost, lost.

II. What We Are (v. 13-22)

Ephesians 2:13-18 *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making*

peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father”

A. We were lost, lost, lost, but now everything changed.

v.13 *“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ”*

Once we were on the outside spiritually looking in, but now we are in Christ and near to God. How did this happen? It is by the blood of Christ. The death Jesus died on the cross for us did much for us.

B. For, the text says,

v.14 *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation.”*

What did the blood of Christ accomplish? First, Christ made Jews and Gentiles, both of us, one. Paul wrote this here and then repeated it in **verse 15**.

“So as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace.”

We must understand what Paul wrote. The Jewish people believed there were two groups in the world, Jews and Gentiles. Paul said there were three, Jews, Gentiles, and the Church of God (see **1 Corinthians 1:32**). Those who believe in Christ are no longer Jews or Gentiles in the sight of God. They were made the new *“ethnicity”* described in **1 Peter 2**.

C. How did this happen?

vs.14-15a *“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances.”*

He, Himself, became our peace, our wholeness. The word *“peace”* speaks of the Old Testament concept of wholeness, right relationship with God and with others. When Jesus died on the cross He satisfied the righteous wrath of God because of our sin, and made our peace with God and the peace of God in our lives. We don't always recognize it also established peace with one another. The Lord Jesus made peace by doing away with the Law covenant and the markers that kept the Jews and Gentiles apart. The wall of separation in the Temple was the embodiment of these markers.

D. What do we have now?

Ephesians 2:19-22 *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being*

fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

We have a spiritual identity. We are no longer outsiders with the living God. We are saints with the other saints. We are part of God’s forever family.

E. We are a part of this new thing called the church. We are built on the Apostles and prophets the most important element is the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of this church is to be a great temple in the Lord.

F. We are the dwelling place of God. God dwells in His church corporately because He dwells in each one individually through His Spirit.

What Do We Do with This?

1. We must live out our identity. We must live our lives with a daily awareness we are God’s people and are to touch the people around us for Him every day.

2. We need to be people who are at peace with God, have the peace of God, and living in peace with other believers.

3. We need to recognize that all of this is so we may have access to God and live in relationship with Him through His Son and the Holy Spirit. Two phrases in this passage stand out to me. First, in **verse 18** we read.

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.”

Second, **verse 22**,

“In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

Do we walk in that relationship with God? Are we fellowshiping with Him in the Word and in prayer?

Hymn #280 *I Love Thy Kingdom Lord*