

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 2:14-22 – the church began at the cross of Jesus Christ!

Today’s Message:

“One New Man”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned that through the phrase, “But now,” the emphasis is a dramatic change in one’s position or standing with God! And we traced that phrase through the Bible to the resurrection. This week, we will discover that Jesus Christ has done something that was unimaginable to the Jews in the Old Testament. He has broken down the wall between Jews and Gentiles and created one new man for an habitation of God. In the Old Testament, God dwelt temporarily in the Tabernacle and locally in the Temple. But now, because of Jesus Christ, He dwells inside of us! This is God’s message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ **The Text** **Ephesians 2:14-22**

A. THE DIVISION REMOVED – Christ has made peace for us with God and Jews.

1. Jesus Christ has **REMOVED** the barriers that separated Jews and Gentiles.

CONTEXT
Gentiles
 Non-Jews;
 Uncircumcision
Circumcision
 Jews by covenant

W1828
“Enmity”
 A state of
 opposition.

- **Ephesians 2:14** – For **he is our peace**, who hath **MADE BOTH ONE**, and **hath broken down the middle wall of partition BETWEEN US**;
- **Ephesians 2:15** – Having **abolished in his flesh the enmity**, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for **TO MAKE IN HIMSELF of twain ONE NEW MAN**, so making peace;

“He is our peace” – He is peace! Relationship repaired, hostility removed, order restored.
 “Broken down the middle wall” – barrier separating Gentiles from Jews; “Cross it, and **die**.”
 “Abolished in his flesh the enmity” – done away with; not moral law, ceremonial aspects
 “One new man” – not Gentiles becoming Jews; creating something entirely new in Christ!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Isaiah 56:6** – Also **the sons of the stranger**, that join themselves to the Lord...
- **Isaiah 56:7** – Even them **will I bring**... make them joyful... house of prayer for all people.
- **Matthew 21:13** – ... It is written, **My house shall be called the house of prayer**...

NOTE This was radical! Under the OT structure, Gentiles were limited with restricted access and covenant privileges focused on Israel. Yet Isaiah saw a future widening of access.

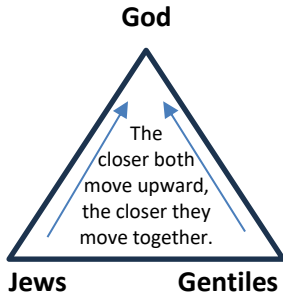
NO GENTILES
Temple Warning
 According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the Second Temple had a sign posted restricting Gentiles only in the outer court.
 “**Foreigners must not enter inside the railing or into the courtyard around the Sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.**”

“... hath broken down the middle wall of partition BETWEEN us:”
*In the Old Testament, the Jews did not see this coming... Gentiles were on the outside! Yet Isaiah prophesied of Gentiles coming near. And Jesus Christ wanted His house opened properly. Now in Ephesians, Paul says the wall is gone entirely! Gentiles do not have to become Jews. Jews do not have to become Gentiles. Christ has created something entirely new **in** Himself!*

B. A NEW CREATURE – both have been reconciled to God in one body.

2. Jesus Christ did not improve two groups; He created an entirely **NEW** identity!

W1828
“Enmity”
 A state of opposition.



- **Ephesians 2:15** – ...to **make in himself of twain ONE NEW MAN**, *so making peace*;
- **Ephesians 2:16** – And that he might **reconcile BOTH unto God in one body** BY THE CROSS, *having slain the enmity* thereby:
- **Ephesians 2:17** – And came and preached peace TO YOU which **were afar off**, and TO THEM that **were nigh**.
- **Ephesians 2:18** – For **through him** we BOTH HAVE ACCESS by **one Spirit** unto **the Father**.

Trinity

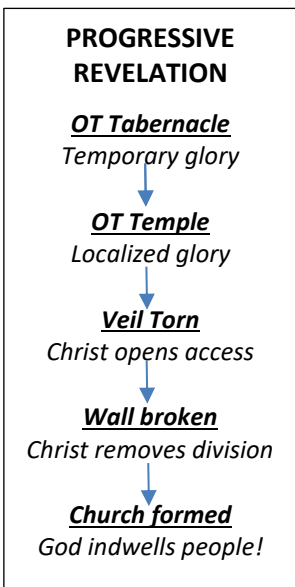
“Reconcile both unto God” – first peace WITH God, then peach with EACH OTHER follows
 “In one body by the cross” – the church began at the cross! The 2 become 1 body there!
 “Preached peace... afar off... nigh” – He preached to Gentiles (far) and to Jews (close)
 “We both have access” – the veil in the temple is torn; all have access now – the Trinity!

Comparing Scriptures

- **Matthew 27:51** – ... the **veil of the temple** was *rent in twain from the top to the bottom*...
- **Hebrews 9:8** – The Holy Ghost this signifying, that **the way into the into holiest of all**...
- **Hebrews 10:19** – Having... **boldness to enter into the holiest** *by the blood of Jesus*,
- **Hebrews 10:20** – By A NEW AND LIVING WAY... **through the veil**, *that is to say, his flesh*;
- **Romans 5:2** – ... By whom also **we have access by faith into this grace**...

C. A NEW BUILDING – God has created a new dwelling place for Himself.

3. Jesus Christ has created a new body of believers which are now the **TEMPLE** of God!



- **Ephesians 2:19** – **Now therefore** YE are NO MORE STRANGERS and FOREIGNERS, *but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God*.
- **Ephesians 2:20** – And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ HIMSELF **being the chief corner stone**;
- **Ephesians 2:21** – In whom all THE BUILDING fitly framed together groweth unto AN HOLY TEMPLE in the LORD:
- **Ephesians 2:22** – In **whom** ye also are **BUILDDED TOGETHER** for an HABITATION of **God** through the **Spirit**.

Trinity

“No more strangers and foreigners” – outsiders, temporary resident without rights
 “Fellowcitizens... household of God” – the kingdom of God! new address in God’s house!
 “Foundation of apostles and prophets” – God’s revelation (word of God) already laid!
 “Himself being the chief corner stone” – the anchor and key to the entire structure!
 “Fitly framed together” – carefully joined piece by piece; every believer has a purpose!
 “An habitation of God through the Spirit” – God now inhabits His redeemed people!

Key Truth

- Paul is effectively saying... the greatest temple in your city is not Diana’s... it is **YOU!**

“... In whom ye also are buildded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”
 This is astonishing! In the Old Testament, God visited temporary structures and buildings. But now, God inhabits redeemed people – the church that He purchased with His own blood! God no longer dwells behind a veil – He dwells inside of us! How then ought we to live?