



Today's Scripture

Ephesians 2:11-22 NIV

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.



Soul Food

GOING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

You are encouraged to read verses before and after the selected passages.

Sunday: Ephesians 2:11-22 Reconciled in Christ.

Mon: Colossians 1:15-23 Supremacy of Jesus.

Tue: John 14:27 Peace is the legacy knowing Jesus.

Wed: Eph. 3:2-6 One body in Christ.

Thurs: 2 Cor. 5:11-21 You are a minister of reconciliation.

Friday: Gal. 3:27-29 One in Christ.

Saturday: Eph. 4:1-6 Called to unity.

During this 6-week series you are encouraged to read: *I Am A Church Member*, by Dr. Thom Rainer.

pastorbillpatterson@gmail.com

815-742-4757

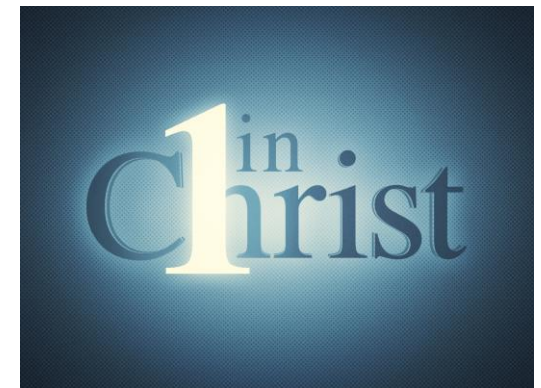
(308) 995-6588

613 18th Ave, Holdrege, NE 68949

<https://theporchlife.org>

September 13, 2020

Sermon Notes



Big Idea: In Jesus barriers between people can be broken.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.
James 1:22 (NIV)

Your Life in Light of the Word

To become a mature, spiritually reproducing follower of Jesus we have to interact with the Bible. These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the Word of God.



Have you ever experienced not being part of “the group”? What was that like?

Why are we without hope if we are not connected to Christ?

Read Eph. 2:13. How can we become connected to God?

What is one purpose of God in uniting people in Jesus?

How has having access to God changed your life?

How does having access to God change your life this week?

What are some of the privileges of being a citizen of Heaven?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. By becoming connected to Christ we are made ministers of reconciliation. How have you served as a minister of reconciliation this past week? How can you do this in the week to come?

If you are not actively engaging in this responsibility what prevents you from obeying Jesus?

Praying God's Word ~ Ephesians 2:11-21

- Thank God that we can be reconciled to Him through Jesus.
- Thank God that in Christ people of different races and cultures can be brought together because of the Cross.
- Thank God, He gives us hope!
- Thank God peace can be ours because of Jesus.
- Pray for the continued unity of Trinity.



Building Community

Philip Yancy - Our Daily Bread

“Community” is the place where the person you least want to live with always lives, says Henri Nouwen. Often we surround ourselves with the people we *most* want to live with, which forms a club or a clique, not a community. Anyone can form a club; it takes grace, shared vision, and hard work to form a community.

The Christian church was the first institution in history to bring together on equal footing Jews and Gentiles, men and women, slaves and free. The apostle Paul waxed eloquent on this “mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God.” By forming a community out of diverse members, Paul said, we have the opportunity to capture the attention of the world and even the supernatural world beyond ([Eph. 3:9-10](#)).

In some ways the church has sadly failed in this assignment. Still, church is the one place I visit that brings together generations: infants still held in their mothers’ arms, children who squirm and giggle at all the wrong times, responsible adults who know how to act appropriately at all times, and those who may drift asleep if the preacher drones on too long. If we want the community experience God is offering to us, we have reason to seek a congregation of people “not like us.”

Lord, remind us that the church is Your work, and You have brought us together for Your good purposes. Help us extend grace to others.

The man who lives in a small community lives in a much larger world.

G. K. Chesterton