



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“EPHESIANS 2:11-22” ON SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: EPHESIANS 2:11-22

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

EPHESIANS 2:11-22 In this passage the apostle Paul is imploring the believers in the church at Ephesus to REMEMBER – to remember their ‘before’ – what their former lives were like before they knew Jesus in contrast to how Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection changed everything! Paul’s words are a command for the followers of Jesus in the church – a command to remember again and again what a difference Jesus made in their lives.

Ephesians 2:11-13: Paul commanded the Ephesians to remember WHERE they once were, and WHAT Jesus did. The Gentiles and Jews had been in conflict for centuries upon centuries, but Jesus stepped into that conflict to unite them into ONE people – God’s people.

- From the message and from Scripture, ask this: Why did the Jews consider the Gentiles as “Outsiders” in God’s kingdom? What things through the centuries had helped shape their identities – what/who they worshipped, what motivated their choices and actions, what was most important to them, reasons for conflict, etc.?
- What is shaping your identity right now? Is your identity in alignment with God’s will and purpose for your life?
- Can you describe a time when you felt like an ‘outsider’ or ‘stranger?’ How did you respond to that? Likewise, are there times you are aware people near you are being excluded from what you are a part of? How is that best handled?
- Do you have a story you are willing to share about remembering WHERE you once were, and WHAT Jesus did to change your life?

Ephesians 2:14-18: With a strong focus on PEACE, Paul challenges the Ephesians to remember that Jesus IS peace, MAKES peace, and PREACHES peace through RECONCILIATION and by DESTROYING the barriers that divide people, just as He at His death destroyed the barrier between man and God, giving us direct access to Him! Paul wanted the Ephesians and us to remember that ONLY Jesus reconciles!

- We seek peace in our lives when conflict exists in our relationships with others, but we must first insure we have peace with GOD before we address those conflicts. What things are clouding your relationship of peace with God, and where in your life do you have conflicts in relationships or broken relationships that need Jesus’ touch of peace?
- As a church, what barriers have we created that keep people from feeling that they belong in this space with us, that they are significant to our church family?
- What barriers do we put up in our own lives that keep people from getting to know Jesus? Where those barriers exist, how does this message/Scripture convict you to break down those barriers in the name of Jesus?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

Ephesians 2:19-21: Paul implored the Ephesian believers to remember that their citizenship in God's Kingdom was possible ONLY because of Jesus! Jesus is the Cornerstone, the Foundation of faith, and He alone joined the Gentiles and Jews together to become as ONE a dwelling place for God by the Spirit of God!

- Verse 19 begins with "So then..." or "Consequently..." Summarize what Paul is referring to when he begins the verse that way.
- Verses 20-22 are filled with power-packed ideas; what words or phrases stand out to you, and how do those concepts encourage you to remember Paul's commands?

People need to know they BELONG. We are united as ONE BODY: CU CHURCH, given the mission to LOVE GOD and LOVE PEOPLE. With whom can you share this message of peace and reconciliation, remembering what Jesus has done for you?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.