

Distance with God

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Ephesians 2:12 – Remember that you were at that time...

- separate from Christ,
- excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and
- strangers to the covenants of promise, having
- no hope and
- without God in the world.

Ephesians 2:13 – But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were_

- **far off** have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The Gentiles: 1 of 3 groups of people (Chart)

1. Jews

Romans 3:1–2 (NASB)

¹Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?

²Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.

- God's chosen people
- The Abrahamic Covenant
 - God's nation and their land
 - Moses and the Law
 - The Davidic Covenant
 - The general promises of God
 - The Messiah

The Rejection of Jesus (Yeshua) as the messiah.

To them, the death of Jesus on the cross is a stumbling block. This is despite the messianic prophecies concerning the nature of His death.

In a sense, religion itself became a hindrance to their relationship with God. The religion of their God had replaced the God of their religion.

Romans 10:2–3 (NASB)

²For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.

³For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God.

2. Gentiles

For the Gentile it is our lifestyle.

Ephesians 4:17–19 (NASB)

¹⁷So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the

- **futility** of their mind,
- ¹⁸being **darkened** in their **understanding**,
- **excluded** from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the
- **hardness** of their heart; ¹⁹and they,
- having become **callous**, have
- given themselves over to **sensuality** for the practice of every kind of impurity
- with **greediness**.

Matthew 6:31–32 (NASB)

³¹“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ³²“For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

1 Corinthians 1:22–24 (NASB)

²²For indeed Jews ask for signs (scriptural – spiritual) and Greeks search for wisdom (science and reason, truth is subjective and/or relevant); ²³but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

3. A Culture Formed Church (a church of relevance)

2 Timothy 3:2–5 (NASB)

⁵holding to

- a form of godliness, although they have denied its power.

“This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.” (Matthew 15:8, NASB)

It is time to define where you stand with God?

Close, in Christ or Far away? There is no safe distance from God.

At a distance from Christ, one is separate, excluded, and estranged from God.

Are you trusting in religious practice? Have you assimilated with the world, the culture? Are you living according to the righteousness of God or according to your own form of godliness?

Are you willing to get an honest answer from the Lord?

Be saved from this perverse generation!” (Acts 2:40, NASB)