



Title: Ephesians - The Church

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

Date: 01292023

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: God loves the church.

1. What the Gentiles Were. (Vs. 11-12)

Vs. 11

Therefore- Considering the first part of Chapter 2 where Paul reminds us that we are God's workmanship, he now goes into the specifics of our reconciliation.

Remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh- Paul reminds the Ephesians (and us) that we were once Gentiles in the flesh. That is, we pursued the ways of this world over a relationship with God.

They were without Christ, without hope and without God in the world. Their sin had separated them from their Creator. -Tony Evans

Vs. 12

At that time you were without Christ- Paul reminds us that when we were in the world and in the flesh, we were without Christ.

Having no hope and without God in the world- Living in the world without Christ means that we are hopeless and without God.

These are terrible words, and the implications of them are the sum of the woeful condition of the lost man or woman. - David Guzik

Without Christ! If this be the description of some of you, we need to talk to you about the fires of hell; let this be enough to startle you, that you are in such a desperate state as to be without Christ. Oh! What terrible evils lie clustering thick within these two words. - C.H. Spurgeon

2. What God Did for the Gentiles. Vs. 13-18

Vs. 13

-Paul reminds the Gentiles that in Christ, they are no longer far off. As believers we have a different standing before God. In Christ, we have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Vs. 14

He himself is our peace- Jesus did not simply make peace between God and man, He is our peace.

Has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of separation- When Jesus went to the cross, He not only paid for all of our sins, but He built a bridge between Jew and Gentiles.

If the Lordship of Jesus Christ is not greater than any difference you have with others - be it political, racial, economical, language, geography or whatever, then you have not fully understood what it means to be under the Lordship of Jesus. - David Guzik

Vs. 15

Having abolished in His flesh the enmity- There was enmity between the Jews and the Gentiles because the Gentiles did not keep the law. Christ came to abolish this.

As to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace- The law of Moses created a social and theological barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles. The death and resurrection of Christ rendered this barrier inoperative.

Christ's goal was not to bring Gentiles into Israel, but to create from the two ethnic groups one new humanity.- DL Moody

Vs. 16

That He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross- The cross of Christ unites us to other believers. As believers we are not Jews or Gentiles, we are the church. This is all possible THROUGH the cross.

God reconciled us back to Him THROUGH Christ Jesus.

Vs. 17-18

For through Him we both have access- Both Jew and Gentiles have equal access to God through Christ Jesus.

But neither Jew nor Gentile now comes by way of law with its sacrifices; both come to the Father by way of the Holy Spirit. - DL Moody

3. What Jews and Gentiles Are in Christ. Vs. 19-22

Vs. 19

Therefore- Considering all that God has done.

You are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God- Paul reminds the Gentiles that they are no longer strangers or second class citizens, but rather fellow citizens. We belong to the household of God, through Christ Jesus.

Vs. 20

Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets- Paul now goes on to describe the house that the Lord has made.

Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone- The cornerstone of a building is the binding stone in which the whole structure is held together. It is the most important stone of the building and a stone which is needed to provide stability.

Jesus Christ is our stability and all things are held together through Him.

Vs. 21

The whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord- The church is fitted together and grows because of the stability of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we can grow intentionally and in a way that brings God glory and honor.

This tells us that the Church is a building perfectly designed by the Great Architect. It is not a haphazard pile of stones, randomly dumped in a field. God arranges the Church for His own glory and purposes. - David Guzik

Vs. 22

You also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit- Paul now goes on to describe how we are being built together for a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.

The church is more than a corporate gathering on Sunday because when that corporate gathering is over, we as the church still march on. - Tony Evans

Three things you need to know about the Church:

1. The church is solid because Jesus Christ is the foundation.
2. The Church is noble because it is the temple of God.
3. There is infinite space.



3D Guide

DO. **BOTTOM LINE: God loves the church.**



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. What is God saying to you through this study?
2. How can you apply this scripture to the Church?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your life?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try a the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.