

# Small Group Notes

Sermon: 29 January 2023



## EPHESIANS

**Brought Near**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22**



# SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 2:11-22

## OVERVIEW

Many Christians today have lost sight of the fact that the Gospel is 'good news'. In a culture that views Christianity as toxic, and a history where the church is known for what she stands against rather than what she stands for, many of us find it difficult to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ to the world around us. That's where passages like this help us to see that the message of the Bible brings a better story than anything else.

Paul tells us that in Christ we are now:

### **1. Members of the household of God**

Paul spends some time looking at the challenges between Jews and Gentiles. The Jews saw the Gentiles as outsiders - and this was also how God saw us. We were separated, alienated and strangers. But the good news is that we who were once far off have been brought near. By the blood of Jesus we no longer have to be outsiders but can be brought into the household of God.

### **2. Holy Temple in the Lord**

The good news continues as we see that in Jesus we are a Holy temple in the Lord. When sin came into the world it brought conflict between mankind and God, and within mankind itself. Paul tells us that Jesus broke down the wall of hostility, which many believe is referring to the wall in the temple that marked where the Gentiles could go no further on pain of death. There was a clear divide between the Jews (God's holy people) and Gentiles (everyone else). Through Jesus we see that those divides no longer exist, to be in Christ is to be holy. We are

one new man, united in Him.

Paul also shows us that Jesus through his life, death and resurrection dealt with our conflict with God. He himself is our peace, taking upon himself our punishment and giving us His righteousness.

### ***3. Dwelling place for God***

Finally he showed us that we are God's dwelling place. God lives in us, is at ease and at rest with us. In Jesus we are dearly loved by God and can rest in him. There is no striving or performing but instead we can be at ease as we enjoy intimacy with Him

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What struggles do you face in believing and sharing that the gospel is good news?
2. How would your week be impacted if you knew afresh that you were a welcomed member of God's household and a holy temple?
3. What obstacles do you face in knowing that God enjoys intimacy with you?