

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE: *THE TWO MADE ONE*

Text: Ephesians 2:11–22

1. Introduction

Humanity often divides itself by culture, economics, traditions, and beliefs. In Paul's time, the greatest divide was between Jews and Gentiles. In this passage, Paul proclaims that Jesus Christ has torn down every barrier, reconciling humanity to God and uniting believers into one family—the Church.

Theme Thought: *Followers of Jesus are one in Him.*

2. Lesson Context

- **The Early Church Debate:** At the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), leaders wrestled with whether Gentile believers needed circumcision to be fully accepted. The council affirmed that faith in Christ—not Jewish rituals—was the basis for salvation.
- **Paul's Mission:** Writing to Gentile believers in Ephesus, Paul reminds them of their past separation and their new identity in Christ.

3. Scripture Reading

Read aloud **Ephesians 2:11–22**.

4. Key Points & Insights

I. Humanity Divided (Ephesians 2:11–12)

- Gentiles were once called “*uncircumcision*”—a mark of exclusion.
- They were without Christ, without citizenship in Israel, strangers to God's promises, and without hope.

Discussion: In what ways do we still divide people today—by race, status, or background?

II. Humanity United (Ephesians 2:13–22)

A. By Christ's Peace (vv. 13–15)

- “*But now*” signals the great reversal: Gentiles are brought near through the blood of Christ.
- Christ abolished the dividing wall of hostility (symbolized even in the Temple barrier).
- He created “*one new man*”—a united Church.

B. By God's Spirit (vv. 16–18)

- Reconciliation is not only vertical (to God) but horizontal (to each other).
- Both Jews and Gentiles now have equal access to the Father through the Spirit.

C. As God's Family (v. 19)

- Believers are no longer outsiders but *fellow citizens* and *members of God's household*.

D. To Be God's Temple (vv. 20–22)

- Built on the foundation of apostles and prophets, with Christ as the cornerstone.
- Together, believers form a holy temple where God's Spirit dwells.

5. Life Application

- **Unity in the Church:** Paul's words challenge us to work at being one family despite differences.
- **Breaking Barriers Today:** Are there cultural, racial, or denominational “walls” we rebuild that Christ has already torn down?
- **Living as God's Temple:** The Spirit lives in us both individually and corporately. How does that change the way we treat each other?

6. Discussion Questions

1. What barriers did Christ tear down in your life personally?
2. How can we, as a congregation, welcome newcomers as fellow citizens of God's family?
3. What guardrails can keep us grounded on Christ as the cornerstone?
4. In what ways can the reality of *peace with God* shape your actions this week?

7. Closing Reflection

Paul's message is both ancient and timely: the Church is not a collection of competing groups but one new humanity in Christ. Unity takes effort, humility, and a Spirit-led commitment to reconciliation.