

“DOCTRINE THAT DELIGHTS”  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS  
Ephesians 2:11-22  
“Integration through Reconciliation”

**Introduction:** The letter to the Ephesians is written to believers. Paul is explaining the implications of the new life in Christ. The saints are blessed and sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit provides spiritual understanding. The saints are made alive in Christ by grace through faith. This new life is demonstrated through good works prepared by God. However, the first century church had to live into a new reality of integration of Jews and Gentiles.

**SECTION I: THE PROBLEM- SEPERATION FROM GOD (Ephesians 2:11-12).**

- A. What’s the difference between Israel and every other nation? The establishment of the Mosaic Covenant and the giving of the Law of Moses created the unique nation of Israel. The commonwealth of Israel refers to citizenship in the nation. The covenants of promise refers to the Abrahamic and Mosaic covenants that applied specifically to Israel. Circumcision was a physical sign of the covenant between God and the descendants of Abraham (Genesis 17:9-14) and a mandatory requirement of the law of Moses (Leviticus 12:3).
- B. Prior to the inauguration of the new covenant Gentiles became Jewish proselytes in order to worship God (Isaiah 56:3-8; Matthew 21:13). Gentiles would have to commit to following the Law and undergo circumcision and live like a Jewish person (Matthew 23:15).
- C. Salvation has never been tied to physical circumcision. Circumcision of the heart is needed rather than circumcision of the flesh (Deuteronomy 10:15-16; Romans 2:25-29). Outside of Christ we are without hope and without God. There is no relationship with God outside of Christ.

**SECTION II: THE SOLUTION- RECONCILLIATION THROUGH THE CROSS (Ephesians 2:13-18)**

- A. The blood of Christ addressed the relational issue between God and the Gentiles. Christ is our peace or the reason we can have peace with God and with each other.
- B. Christ combined Jews and Gentiles into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13). The middle wall of separation (what previously separated Jews and Gentiles) has been destroyed by Christ. Christ abolished the laws of commandments in ordinances through His death on the cross.
- C. Breaking God’s commandments creates enmity (Isaiah 59:2; Ezekiel 18:4). Christ abolished the hostility through His sacrifice and created a new humanity. Christ made peace through making the law of commandments inoperative.
- D. The substitutionary atoning sacrifice of Christ was a onetime payment with unlimited results. The Gospel is the good news of peace with God (Ephesians 6:15). Through Christ we have access to the Father by the Holy Spirit (John 14:6). There is a difference between God’s common grace and His saving grace (Matthew 5:45, 7:21-23).

**SECTION III: THE OUTCOME- INTEGRATION OF ALL PEOPLE GROUPS IN CHRIST  
(Ephesians 2:19-22).**

- A. Saved Gentiles are fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household. Salvation lumps you in the group with the saints from all throughout time.
- B. Each saint is a living stone in God's temple. Christ connects the Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints together in God's temple. We are integrated into the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. God dwells in the saints (the church) in the Holy Spirit.

**JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH CHRIST. DO YOU HAVE ACCESS?**

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