

# Ephesians 2:11-22 – 4 September 2022

## “One Church, One Path”

### Introduction

#### \*Ephesians Outlined

\*Chap 1-3 – **The Position of the Christian**

\*Chap 4-6 – **The Practice of the Christian**

\*Our Position = It not like we've just taken a new job, but that we've taken on a new identity

\*Chap 1, we saw we are chosen to receive a great inheritance & be empowered for this life & the next

\*Chap 2:1-10 reveals that God saved us b/c He loves us & wants to show His greatness working thru us

\*Finishing Chap 2 God further identifies the joy of bring both Jews & Gentiles into one body under Jesus Christ

\*There's never been a division as great as Jew & Gentile

**\*Today, here's 4 aspects of this joining: how God brought Jews & Gentiles together into one body of Christ**

# **1<sup>st</sup> aspect of this joining: It's not by the Law, but by a new & equal Way (Vs 11-13)**

Read Vs 11

1. There was division & distance between Israel & the Gentile nations
2. All nations in the world had this in common, *they were not Israel*, none had the covenant of Abraham with its token of circumcision

Read Vs 12

1. W/o the knowledge or hope of Christ to come
2. “Not a participant in the community or benefits of citizenship of Israel”
3. “Foreigners to the agreements God gave Israel”
  1. Like multiplying seed, giving land & Messiah
4. “Having no hope” speaks of not having hope of resurrected life after death (Read I Thes 4:13)
5. “Without God in the world” is that we had no direction or power to live right or victoriously

## Read Vs 13

1. Closeness w/ God happens b/c of the willingness of Jesus to give His life in making atonement for our sins
2. We aren't coming close to God by the Law or b/c the Law of none effect
  - a. We're coming in a new way – by Jesus

## **2<sup>nd</sup> aspect of this joining: This closeness brings peace, removing hostility (Vs 14-16)**

## Read Vs 14

1. “He is our peace” – He didn't just make peace between us, He didn't just bring peace, He is peace
  - a. He's the very center of what brings us together
  - b. He's the very substance of our mutual assuaged guilt & reconciliation toward each other
2. Jesus hasn't just made a way for Jews & Gentiles to be right w/ God, He's made us equal in oneness

- a. If this is true between Jew & Gentiles then it's true for so many more
  - i. Of blacks and whites
  - ii. Of rich people and poor people
  - iii. Of beautiful people and ugly people
  - iv. Whom do you hold a bias toward?

Read Vs 15

1. Jesus has taken away the hostility or contention between us
  - a. Jews: We have God's perfect standard
  - b. Gentiles: Yeah, but you can't keep it
  - c. They detested each other for having or not having the Law
2. Now that Jesus removed the Law by fulfilling it, showing Himself the authority over it, neither keeping or not keeping the Law matters
  - a. A Jew is made into a new person & a Gentile is made into the *same type of* new person
  - b. There's only one type of born-again Christian
  - c. Nothing to be bitter toward each other about

## Read Vs 16

1. Jesus killed every form of sin “in Himself” on the cross, including bigotry, racism, sexism & pride
  - a. Read I John 4:20-21 – If you love God, you will love your brothers & sisters
2. There’s a new division that has now happened
  - a. Read I John 3:13-14
3. Coming into a loving relationship with the Lord has given you a new enemy – the world
  - a. Read Matt 10:34, 37 – Division based on whom you love

**3<sup>rd</sup> aspect of this joining: It can only happen as we each go thru the Door (Vs 17-19)**

## Read Vs 17

1. Different distances from God aren’t the determining factor in our eternal destinies
  - a. It’s whether we’ve accepted His gift of peace and reconciliation

## Read Vs 18

1. Both Jews & Gentiles experience the fullness of the Trinity of God
  - a. Jesus is the doorway to deliverance
  - b. The Spirit is the power to pursue
  - c. God the Father is the destination
2. Turn to John 10:1-10 – I am the Door

## Read Vs 19

1. ‘Strangers’ = *xenos* or foreigner & ‘foreigner’ = an alien resident (in the land)
2. As Abraham, we seek to be a citizen of that Godly land & inheritance
  - a. Read Heb 11:9-10
  - b. We seek a heavenly land, a heavenly home
  - c. *Knowledge* brings you nearer to God but you’re still outside. *Faith* in Jesus brings you thru the door and into our heavenly home

## **4<sup>th</sup> aspect of this joining: We become the dwelling place of God (Vs 20-22)**

Read Vs 20

1. Authoritative plan of God's mind (to give us new life & into God's family) was revealed chiefly thru Jesus & also thru the apostles & prophets
2. It was given initially to the apostles & prophets to reveal God's plan to add to God's kingdom
3. Jesus is the most essential part of the church
  - a. Read Mat 21:42-44 – He's not the cornerstone of Israel but of those that believe
  - b. Turn to I Pet 2:4-10 – He's corner of our faith

Read Vs 21

1. There is a togetherness of the church that we're going the same direction to honor God
2. In new life, in the Lord, in the church, in the Kingdom of God we're becoming a holy temple
  - a. More holy and sanctified everyday
  - b. A temple where God is worshipped & shows His power

3. 'Fitly framed together' isn't just that we're ordered properly, but that there's a closeness & commonality

Read Vs 22

1. In the church we're growing together into a glorious place where God can dwell & rejoice in His people that love Him
2. This is spiritual growth – growth in understanding but really *growth in faith* toward God and *growth in grace* toward the church

## Conclusion

If God can break down the prejudice between Jew & Gentile, He can break down the less than positive mindset that we have toward others

1. **We are joined together, not by the Law, but by a new & equal Way**
  - a. The payment of Jesus
2. **We now have peace w/ God & other believers**
  - a. Christ has removed our hostilities
3. **To access this unity, we need only to step through the Door**
  - a. Which is the broken body of Jesus
4. **As we step in, we become the very dwelling place of God**
  - a. United with Him for eternity!

There is ONE CHURCH, there is ONE PATH to God & it is Jesus Christ!