

## **Ephesians 2:11-22 Our Unity in the Body of Christ**

### **Verses 11-12 – Alienation before the Cross**

*Therefore* – Based on your position in Christ and your salvation by grace, remember your former condition.

*Gentiles* – The Greek word is *ethnos* and means “nations and peoples.” To the Jew, anyone who did not have the covenant sign of circumcision was a Gentile.

*So called Circumcision* – “So called” because they were relying on an outward, covenant of the flesh to grant them acceptance with God.

*Remember:*

- 1 – *You were separate from Christ*
- 2 – *You were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel*
- 3 – *You were strangers to the covenants of promise*
- 4 – *You had no hope*
- 5 – *You were without God in the world*

Their former condition – alienated from God!

### **Verses 13-18 Reconciliation by the Cross**

*But now in Christ Jesus you who were formerly far off have been brought near* – Gentiles who were formerly excluded (*far off*) are now included (*brought near*) in the blessings of God that formerly only the Jews enjoyed.

*By the blood of Christ* – It is the shed blood of Christ for the redemption of the world that makes this reconciliation possible.

Verses 14-15

*For He Himself is our peace* – Romans 5:1, “*Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Colossians 1:19-20, “*It was the Father’s good pleasure...through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross...*”

*For He Himself is our peace* –

- 1 – *Who made both groups into one*
- 2 – *Who broke down the barrier of the dividing wall*
- 3 – *Who abolished the enmity caused by the Law*
- 4 – *Who makes the two into one new man*

Verses 16-18

*And might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.* Notice that the

Gentiles do not become Israel but that both Israel and Gentiles are reconciled. They remain distinct but become one in the body of Christ.

Isaiah 57:19, “*Peace, peace to him who is far and to him who is near, says the Lord...*”

*For through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father* – The Greek word for “access” is used only three times in the New Testament, here and in Ephesians 3:12 and in Romans 5:2. As believers we have access to God the Father through the Holy Spirit because of Christ’s death on the cross!

### **Verses 19-22 Unification after the cross**

Notice the transitions:

Verse 11 – *Therefore...* Alienation before the cross

Verse 13 – *But now...* Reconciliation by the cross

Verse 19 – *So then...* Unification after the cross

*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and are of God’s household.*

Having been built upon the foundation of...

*The apostles* – They are given the authority (1 John 1:1-3)

*The prophets* – New Testament prophets (Eph. 4:11)

*Christ Jesus – the Corner Stone* - Luke 20:17 – Jesus quoting Psalm 118:22, Acts 4:11 – Peter quoting Psalm 118:22, Romans 9:33 – Paul quoting Isaiah 28:16, 1 Peter 2:6-8 – Peter quoting Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14, 28:16

*In Whom the whole building, being fitted together*

*Is growing into a holy temple in the Lord*

*In Whom you also are being built together*

*Into a dwelling of God in the Spirit*

*Being fitted together* – Only here and in 4:16. “To join closely together as in parts of a building.” Emphasizing the building as being in process. Each part accomplishing the purpose for which it was designed.

*Being built together* – Only here. “To build together with.” Emphasizing the individual parts, or individual believers.

Every church is part of a great spiritual building and every believer is a stone built into the church.