

## I. Jews & Gentiles: A History of Hostility (11-12)

**A. There was racial division (11a) - “Remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh...”**

**B. There was cultural opposition (11b) - “...called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands...”**

**C. There were ideological barriers (12) - “Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”**

**Jews & Gentiles did not think alike, look alike, act alike, believe alike, worship alike or experience alike.**

**They were two distinct groups who now had only things in common: they were followers of Jesus Christ.**

## II. Forgiven & Fused: A Theology of Unity (13-16)

**A. What Jesus has accomplished for the individual (13) - “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”**

**B. What Jesus has accomplished for the Church (14-16)**

1. The demolition of barriers (14-15a) - “For He himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in His flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances...”

2. The assigning of new identity (15b) - “...that He might create in Himself one new man in place of the two so making peace.”

3. The end of the war (16) - “...and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.”

## III. Brothers & Sisters: A Commitment To Clarity (17-22)

**A. He says the same things to us (17) - “And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.”**

**B. He opens the same door for us (18) - “For through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”**

**C. He establishes the same Kingdom through us (19-20) - “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...” **Clarify this: one shared citizenship, one shared family, one shared foundation, one shared King****

**D. He imparts the same mission to us (21-22) - “...in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” **An ongoing process****