



Date: 08-09-2026

No Longer Strangers

Text: Ephesians 2:11-22 NLT

“God did not only save us as individuals. Through Jesus, He brought us together and made us one family.”

1. We Were _____ from God.

Ephesians 2:11-12 NLT

11 Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. You were called "uncircumcised heathens" by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts.
12 In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and you did not know the covenant

promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.

Notes:

2. Jesus _____ every Barrier.

Ephesians 2:13-18 NLT

13 But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ. 14 For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us. 15 He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in himself one new people from the two groups. 16 Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to God by means of his death on the cross, and our hostility toward each other was put to death. 17 He brought this Good News of peace to you Gentiles who were far away from him, and peace to the Jews who were near. 18 Now all of us can come to the Father through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

Notes:

3. God _____ us into His family.

Ephesians 2:19-22 NLT

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Notes:

*We were outsiders, Jesus brought us near, and
now we belong to God's family.*

Closing

1. Remember Where You Came From

Do not forget what life was like apart from Christ. Remembering God's grace should produce humility, gratitude, and compassion for those who still feel far away.

2. Remove the Barriers Between You and Others

Jesus tore down the wall of hostility. We should not rebuild walls through bitterness, prejudice, pride, gossip, or unresolved conflict. Take one step toward peace with someone this week.

3. Take Your Place in God's Family

You are not meant to remain on the edge. Build relationships, serve others, worship faithfully, and allow God to use you as part of what He is building.

Expanded Notes

The Dividing Wall of Hostility

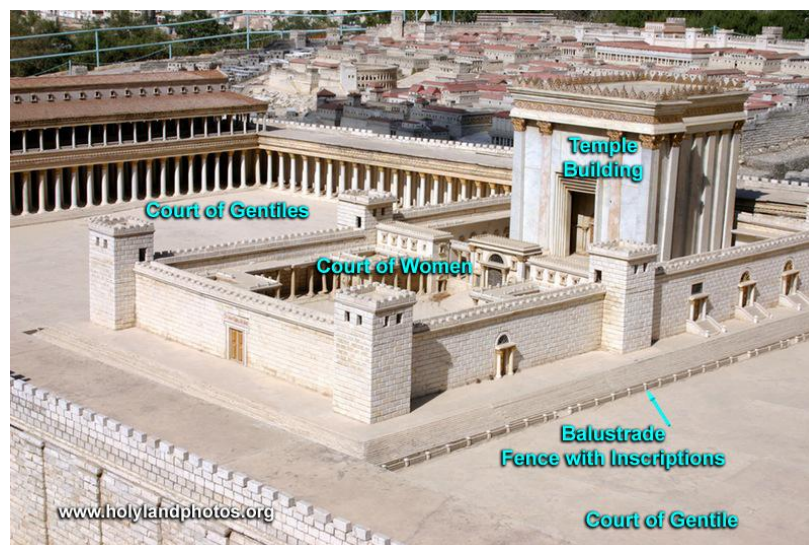
The division between Jews and Gentiles was deep. Gentiles were viewed as outsiders to God's covenant people, and the temple itself included barriers that limited how near they could come. Paul says that Jesus has torn down this wall of hostility. Through His death, Christ removed the spiritual barrier that separated people from God and the social barriers that kept people separated from one another.

Ephesians 2:14

"For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us."

Galatians 3:28

"There is no longer Jew or Greek... for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."





“Foreigners must not enter inside the balustrade or into the forecourt around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his ensuing death.”

One New Humanity in Christ

Jesus did not simply bring two divided groups into the same room. He created one new people in Himself. In Christ, our former identities no longer determine our standing before God. We may still have different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences, but we now share one Savior, one Spirit, and one Father. Our unity is not based on being alike; it is based on belonging to Christ.

Ephesians 2:15–16

“That he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross.”

Colossians 3:11

“Christ is all and in all!”

The Church as God’s Household

Believers are no longer strangers, foreigners, or guests. We are members of God’s family. The church is not merely an event we attend or a building we enter; it is a people to whom we belong. Jesus is the cornerstone who gives the church its direction and stability, and God is building each believer together into a dwelling place for His presence.

Ephesians 2:19

“You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God.”

1 Timothy 3:15

“The household of God... is the church of the living God.”