

## Grow in Jesus – “Grow in Peace and Unity”

Ephesian Series: Part 5. Ephesians 2:11-22

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- The problem of division and discord between people.
- The problem of people not listening to one another and people not listening to God’s Holy Spirit.
- We are created for a Covenant of peace with God and one another in Christ. The Church is made for God’s mission of peace and healing in the world.

### A. Separated from God’s Covenant (v.11-12)

#### 1. God’s Covenant goes beyond birth or ritual (v.11)

*11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)*

#### 2. God’s Covenant closes the gap of exclusion (v. 12)

*— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

### B. Brought together, Unity in Christ (v.13-16)

1. Jesus is our Peace bringing relational healing (v.13-15a) 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations.

2. Jesus recreates and unites us at the Cross (v. 15b-16)  
.... His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

### C. Reconciled to Access God by One Spirit (v.17-18)

#### 1. Jesus made peace with God available for all. (v.17)

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

2. Jesus made access to God available for all. (v.18) 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

### D. Redeemed to Build and Grow the Church in Christ the Cornerstone (v. 19-22)

#### 1. We are Citizens of God’s Kingdom and members of God’s Household. (v.19)

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household,

#### 2. We share one foundation for faith in Christ. (v.20)

20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

#### 3. We are joined together as God’s Holy Temple. (v.21-22)

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

### Questions:

1. Why are people so divided these days? Give examples.
2. How does faith in Jesus, the Son of God, lead people into unto Unity?
3. How does the cross serve as a focal point of humility, unity and peace with God?
4. How does Jesus bring healing for people in relationships? Where do we see this needed today inside and outside of the Church?
5. How can we grow as a Church? Why is focus of following Jesus so essential as our foundation for sharing and learning?