

Sermon Supplement

Ephesians 2:11-22 – *The Two Become One for His Glory*

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Christ's death and resurrection have made spiritually alienated Jews and Gentiles into a new, unified creation, resulting in peaceful reconciliation with God and one another. The two have become one for God's glory.
2. **Melodic Line of the Letter:** The two become one for His glory. God the Father, through God the Son, by the power and presence of God the Spirit, is making a multi-ethnic people for the purpose of His glory, based in his eternal plan, in this final age.

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Sufficiency of Scripture** – God has written the best and final word on what it means to be human, the church, etc.
2. **Circumcision** – the outward sign of promise; 'flesh' is shorthand for circumcision and the Old Covenant.
3. **Peace** – not just a lack of strife, it is the abundance of love – Shalom.
4. **Temple** – founded on the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus as the cornerstone, members of God's house, organic and growing, the multi-ethnic church, filled with God's Holy Presence.
5. **Idolatry** – a good thing that has become an ultimate thing.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

1. Far off (vv. 11-13)
 - a. The Real problem (vv. 11-12)
 - b. The Real redemption (v. 13)
2. Brought near (vv. 14-18)
 - a. Peace
 - b. Christ achieved peace.
 - c. Christ's work is the cross work.
 - d. Union with Christ is the operative image.
 - e. Christ had to break down before he could build up.
 - f. Once Christ breaks down the barriers, he builds one new humanity.
 - g. Christ makes far off people near through preaching.
 - h. The glorious peace plan is a work of the Trinity.
3. Built up (vv. 19-22)

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Once we were without union with God and all that comes with God, but now by the power of the Spirit we have been united with Christ, having been brought near and made alive through his life, his death, his resurrection, his present glory, his status with God the Father, and his love for us. This is real redemption and ultimate reality.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

1. What images come to mind when you read, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (v. 13)?
2. How have you experienced Christ "breaking down the dividing wall of hostility" (v. 14)? Has that brought you near to others from different ethnicities? Economic classes? Affinity groups?
3. Where is your heart NOT at peace in relation with God or someone in your life? Share with your group.

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

1. Thank God for the reality that you were brought near to God through the blood of Jesus by the power of the Spirit and this into His holy temple family, made up of one new humanity.
2. Ask that God would take this narrative and put it in your hearts.
3. Confess the idols that you've allowed to rule your heart and mind.
4. Ask God to help you view the good things in your life, those things that are not meant to be ultimate things, in their proper perspective and importance.