

So what's your story?

Ephesians 2:11-22

January 24, 2021

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. (Eph. 1:13 NIV84)

1. Remember who you were. [vss. 8-12]

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith— and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (that done in the body by the hands of men)— 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.

The darkness of every Gentile's condition (vs. 12):

- *They were separated from any connection with God.*
“Remember that at that time you were separate from Christ.”
- *They were excluded from citizenship in Israel.*
“excluded from citizenship in Israel”
- *They were foreigners to “the promise”.*
“foreigners to the covenants of the promise”
- *They had no hope and were without God.*
“without hope and without God in the world”

2. Stand firm in who you are. [vs. 13]

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

- We are *“in Christ Jesus”*.
- We have been *“brought near”*.
- We are *“under the blood”*.

3. Be humble in how you see yourself. [vss. 14-18]

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

4. Be confident in how you live! [vss. 19-22]

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

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.

In Summary...

You are most effective when you...

- **Remember who you were.**
- **Stand firm in who you are.**
- **Are humble in how you see yourself.**
- **When you live confident and boldly to the glory of God.**