

## **BUT Now: New Community in Christ**

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Continuing the flow of thought... All of chapter 2 portrays the exercise of **Christ's restoring power** on behalf of the church.

**Big Idea:** Paul now contrasts our (Gentiles) former godlessness and our exclusion from the people of God with our new experience of closeness to God and inclusion in his people.

• **Therefore remember that once...** we were far off (2:11-12)

- Alienated from God

- Alienated from one another

• **BUT NOW...** we have been brought near (2:13-22)

- Peace with God

- Peace with one another

• **So then: A New Humanity (2:19-22)**

## **GRACE GROUP Discussion Questions**

*Ephesians 2:11-22 (week of Oct 20, 2019)*

**Spend some time catching up. Spend some time in the text.**

As we dive in to Ephesians 2:12-3:13 this week and next, we are going to find that there was much dissension among the believers in the early church. Differences arose between Jewish and Gentile

Read Ephesians chapter 2. As you read, pay careful attention to the things you find true of you "formerly." Looking for repeated words and ideas in Scripture helps us to recognize the emphasis of a particular passage or book of the Bible.

- Ephesians 2:11-12 — "Remember"
  - Eph 2:11 starts with the word "Therefore." What is the "Therefore" there for?
  - How are Gentiles described? What things are true of Gentiles "before Christ"?
  - Whom is this an accurate description of today? Why?
- Ephesians 2:13-22 — "But now"
  - What is true of Gentile believers now?
  - According to Eph 2:13-14, 16, 18, what is the main emphasis of this passage? Where else in Ephesians do you notice the same emphasis?
  - How did Jesus Christ give us peace with God?
  - To whom is the peace of God available?
- One new humanity, growing into a holy temple in the Lord
  - According to 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:18-20, what do we learn about being a "dwelling of God in the Spirit"?
  - What does it mean to know that you are the temple of the Holy Spirit?
  - What sorts of things can cause dissension and disunity in the church today? What can you do to help preserve unity?

**Spend some time sharing and praying together.**

- Pray for each other.
- The need for unity and reconciliation was true for the Ephesian church, and it is true for the church today. Pray that God will help us see the centrality of Christ in the unity of the body of believers. Pray that God would help all of us fight for unity and be a unifier.