



Sermon Points

Week 8 - 11.6.22 | Terrell Spears

Title: Reconciled to God and One Another

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

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Main Point: In Christ, all who were once separated from God through sin, whether Gentile or Jew, have been reconciled to God through His death at the cross, and in being reconciled to God are now reconciled to one another as His new covenant people.

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22 ESV - Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands-- remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1. Alienation [Ephesians 2:11-12]
2. Reconciliation [Ephesians 2:13-18]
3. New Covenant People [Ephesians 2:19-22]

Under the law, Gentiles were:

1. Separated from Christ -> Spiritual Reality
2. Alienated from the commonwealth of Israel -> Spiritual Identity
3. Strangers to the covenants of promise -> Spiritual Ignorance
4. Having no hope -> Spiritual Desperation
5. Without God in the world -> Spiritual Darkness

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ— by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-7

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, **so making peace**, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:13-18

But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Hebrews 9:11-14

- For context:
 - Surrounding the inner courts was a four and one-half-foot-high wall, called the soreg, that separated the court of the Gentiles from the court of the

Israelites and the court of the women and kept Gentiles from ever coming near the sanctuary. Josephus says that there were thirteen stone inscriptions erected at various points on this balustrade that warned Gentiles not to enter under penalty of death. Two of these inscriptions have been discovered. The text of the inscription reads: "No foreigner is to enter within the forecourt and the balustrade around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his subsequent death."
- Clinton Arnold - Zondervan Exegetical Commentary Series: New Testament (Ephesians)

They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.
Romans 9:4-5

Yet...

"I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will lead him and restore comfort to him and his mourners, creating the fruit of the lips. **Peace, peace, to the far and to the near,**" says the Lord, "and I will heal him." - Isaiah 57:18-19

New Covenant People

1. Fellow Citizens = God's Kingdom People
2. Members of the household of God = God's Adopted Family
3. Holy Temple = Living Stones for God's Dwelling Place

In Christ, all who were once separated from God through sin, whether Gentile or Jew, have been reconciled to God through His death at the cross, and in being reconciled to God we are now reconciled to one another as His new covenant people.

What types of hostility/dividing walls must we fight against here at The Well?

1. Ethnic
2. Gender
3. Career
4. Education
5. Politics
6. Family Planning
7. Parenting Choices

8. Children's Schooling
9. Income
10. Spiritual Pride

Pursue reconciliation with...

1. people at The Well
2. people in your family
3. people living in your home
4. people from your previous church
5. your co-workers
6. your friends
7. your enemies

5 actions steps to help pursue reconciliation at The Well:

- P - Pray for genuine love & sincere humility
- E - Engage community with intentionality
- A - Acknowledge your need and ask for the Spirit's help
- C - Confess your sins towards others
- E - Extend forgiveness towards other sins against you

In Christ, we are reconciled to God and to each other.