

## PART 4 HANDOUT EPHESIANS 2:11-22 THE GREAT PEACE MISSION!

*The Only Eternal Covenant that Will Last is the One Made by God, Sealed by the Blood of Jesus Christ.*

3 Words Summarize what he says: In Eph 2:11-22 **Separation...Reconciliation...and Unification**

### **Separation: Versus 11–12. Turn Us to the Work of Christ for Gentiles in Particular**

- *For centuries, the Circumcised Jews had looked down upon the Uncircumcised Gentiles with an Attitude that God had Never Intended Them to Display. Rom 2; Gal 5; Col 2:11*
- **Point: God Set them Apart, that He might Use Them to be a Channel of His Revelation and Goodness to the Heathen Nations!**

The Word that Best Described a Gentile was **"WITHOUT"**. They were Outside in Several Respects:

- **They Were Without Christ:** Every Unsaved Person, Jew, or Gentile, is "Outside Christ"!
- **They Were Without Citizenship:** *Israel was God's Nation, that Was Not True of Any Gentile Nation.*
- **They Were Without Covenants:** *God did Not make any specific Covenant with the Gentile nations.*
- **They Were Without Hope:** Their Religions were Powerless to help men Face either Life or Death.
- **They Were Without God:** No matter How Religious or Moral...They Did Not Know the True God.

### **Key Point: The Spiritual State of the Gentiles was Not Caused by God, But by Their Own Willful Sin.**

Rom 1:18-23 says, the Gentiles knew the true God but Deliberately Refused to Honor Him

- **God Separated the Jews from the Gentiles that He Might Save the Gentiles.**
- *Israel was to be a Light to the Gentiles that they too might be Saved. But sad to say, Israel became like the Gentiles, and The Light Burned Dimly.*
- **KEY: This Fact is a Warning to the Church Today. "When the Church is Least Like the World, it Does the Most for the World".**

### **Versus 13-18 Tell Us What God Did for the Gentiles. Reconciliation.**

- Verse 13 Begins with, **"BUT NOW"** which Parallels the "But God" in Verse 4.
- Both speak of the *Gracious Intervention of God* on Behalf of Lost Sinners. Enmity is the Key Word in Vs 15-16. It is a 2-Fold Enmity: Between Jews and Gentiles & Between Sinners and God.

### **Paul Describes the Greatest Peace Mission in History. Jesus Christ, Not Only Reconciled Jews & Gentiles, But He Reconciled both to Himself in One body, the Church.**

- Reconcile Means, To Bring Together Again. *Sinners are Reconciled Back to God IN Christ!*
- Sin is a Great Separator in the World! It has been Dividing People since the Beginning of Human History. When Adam and Eve Sinned, they were Separated from God.
- God Called Abraham, and Through the Nation of Israel, Jesus Christ Came to the world. His Work on the Cross Abolished the Enmity Between Jew & Gentile & Between Sinners and God. IN Christ.

### ***It was God's Purpose that these Differences Be Erased Forever...And They Are Erased Through the Work of Christ who made Reconciliation Possible on the Cross***

- With the Salvation of the Gentiles on the *Same Terms as the Jews*, Problems began to Develop.
- Jewish Christians Reprimanded Peter for going and eating with the Gentiles Acts 11
- Acts 15: Representatives of the Churches Gathered for a Conference Regarding the Place of the Gentiles in the Church...**The Question: Must a Gentile become a Jew to become a Christian? Their Conclusion was NO!** Jews & Gentiles are Saved the Same Way, *by Faith In Jesus Christ!*

### **The Cause of the Enmity was the Law, The Law made a Definite Distinction Between Jews and Gentiles.**

- The dietary laws of the Jews put a difference between the clean and unclean Lev 11
- Ezekiel, the prophet reminded the priest that their task was to teach the Jews, the Difference Between the Holy and the Profane "Chapter 44:23.
- **The Divine Ordinance given by God to Israel, Stood as a Wall Between the Two.**

*For Jews and Gentiles, to be Reconciled, this Wall had to be Destroyed...This Jesus Did On the Cross. When He Died, the Veil in the Temple was Literally Torn Into, and the Wall of Separation Was Torn Down.*

- Vs 14 says, Through Jesus Christ, Jew and Gentile Become One. He is Our Peace.
- **The Word Abolish...Means to Nullify.** Once Nullified, The Law No Longer Holds Sway Over Either Jew or Gentile, Since in Christ Believers are Not Under Law, But Under Grace. The Righteousness of the Law is Still God's Standard. And this is Fulfilled in the Believer by the Holy Spirit Rom, 8:1-4

**The Verb “To Make” Vs 15 Means “To Create”.** The Church, the Body of Christ, is God's New Creation. 2 Cor 5:15. **Gal 3:28 Makes Clear...There is Neither Jew, nor Greek, there is Neither Bond nor Free, there is Neither male or female...All Are One in Christ Jesus,**

- **POINT:** Not Only did the Gentiles Need to be Reconciled to the Jews, *But Both the Jews and the Gentiles Needed to be Reconciled to God!* It was Not a Question of the Gentile Becoming a Jew to Become a Christian, But the Jew Admitting he Was a Sinner Just Like the Gentile.
- **Likewise...It Is Not About What We Do to Try to Be Good Enough For God. It Is Always, Admitting We are Sinners and Receiving Christ's Forgiveness!**

**VS 19-22 Explains That Jews and Gentiles are Unified in Christ. Unification:** 3 Pictures Illustrate the Unity of Believing Jews and Gentiles in the Church

- **VS 19a One Nation.** God Chose Israel But they Rejected their Redeemer Matt 21:43 says The kingdom was taken from them and given to a People who Will Produce It's Fruit.
- **VS 19b One Family:** Through Faith in Christ, We Enter into God's Family.
- **VS 20-22 One Temple.** Gen 5 God Walked with His people. In Exodus, He Dwelt with His people. Gods Next Dwelling Place was the Body of Christ John 1:14, which men took and Nailed to a Cross.
- **Today Through His Spirit, God Dwells in the Church, the Temple of God...He Dwells in the Hearts of those Who've Trusted Christ** 1 Cor 6, and in the Church Eph 2

**Jesus Christ has United Jews and Gentiles in the Church. In Matthew 16:18 I Will Build My Church.**

- **Ps 40:2 The Holy Spirit Builds His temple by taking Dead Stones Out of the Pit of Sin**
- Neither Spiritual Death or Spiritual Distance can Defeat the Grace of God!
- **He Also Made Us Part of His Church...A Tremendous Privilege and Responsibility!**

**Gods Great PEACE MISSION it Leads to 2 Practical Applications.**

**First,** have You Personally Experienced the Grace of God? Have you Trusted Christ and Received the Eternal Life that Only He can Give? If Not Sure? Give Your Life to Christ today and Daily Follow Him.

**Second,** if You Are a True Believer In Christ...Are You Helping Others to Trust Christ with their lives that They Might Know the Joy of Gods Salvation? You've been Raised from the Dead, to Walk in Newness of Life...To Be A Witness to Your World as You Share this Good News of Eternal Life with Others?

- Jesus Christ Died to Make Reconciliation Possible. You and I Must Live to Make the Message of Reconciliation Personal. God has given to us the Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:20.

**KEY: Peace is Not the Absence of Problems or Adversity...PEACE Is The PRESENCE OF Jesus Christ in A Life!**

Often People Want to be PeaceKeepers at Any Cost...This Is NOT Gods Plan...God Desires that We Be PEACE-MAKERS!

- The Difference Between A PeaceMaker And a Peacekeeper is This: Peacekeepers Seek to Maintain Peace Through Avoidance...While PeaceMakers Actively Restore Peace Through Reconciliation and Conviction.

**“LIFE” POINT: Blessed Are the Peacemakers For They Shall Be Called the Children of God! Matt 5:9.**