

God's Plan Step Two: Unite the Jew and Gentile
Ephesians 2:11-22
Al Gascon | May 5, 2024

Quote of the Week

The problem of fences has grown to be one of the most acute that the world must face. Today there are all sorts of zig-zag and crisscrossing fences running through the races and people of the world. Modern progress has made the world a neighborhood and God has given us the task of making it a brotherhood. In these days of dividing walls of race and class, we must shake the Earth, anew with the message of Christ, in whom there is neither bond nor free, Jew nor Greek, Scythian nor barbarian, but all or one.

– Sir Phillip Gibs

Ephesians 2:11-22

Genesis 17:1-12

⇒ Ἀποκαταλλάσσω (apo katallassó) – to reconcile completely

Those who once were socially and spiritually alienated are in Christ united with God and with each other. Because they have Christ they have both peace and access in one spirit to the father. They have an introducer who presents them at the heavenly throne of God, before whom they can come at any time. They can now come to God as their own father, knowing that he no longer judges or condemns, but only forgives and blesses. – John Macarthur

⇒ God's plan for the tribes of the earth was to bring them to unity, oneness in Christ. In Christ there is no longer Jew nor gentile; We are all one.

Discussion Questions

- a. Can you think of an amazing story of reconciliation, whether it happened in your life or out in the world?
- b. Has there ever been a job or a person in your life that you know treated you as if you weren't as important as them? As if you were a 2nd class or lesser than.
- c. What do you think the outcome for the Church and its history would have been if non-Jewish Christians were treated as 2nd class citizens?
- d. With this Sunday's passage in mind (Eph 2:11-22) what do you believe are some "dividing walls of hostility" that exist within the church today that need to be taken down?
- e. Let's pretend that we today had to keep all of the OT laws (not just the moral ones) both in our gatherings as well as individually. All the commands about dietary restrictions, animal sacrifices, festivals in the holy land, laws about uncleanness, etc. What would be the most difficult command(s) for you to keep?