

**Ephesians 2:11-14**  
**“The Cross brings us together”**

**Introduction**

**Eph 2:8-10**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

- **For we are His**
- **Workmanship**
- **created in Christ Jesus**
- **for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them**

**Titus 3:8**

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, **that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.** These things are **good and profitable to men.**

**Titus 2:14**

14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself **His own special people, zealous for good works.**

**2 Cor 5:14-15**

14 For **the love of Christ compels us,** because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

15 and He died for all, **that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.**

**2:11 Gentiles...in the flesh...Uncircumcised**

**Eph 2:11**

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh--who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—

**A. You, once Gentiles in the flesh:**

God's work of reconciliation is not only between God and the individual but, it is also between groups of people that are at odds, such as Jews and Gentiles.

**Eph 2:2-5**

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

#### **B. Who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision:**

Gentiles were in a desperate place, being **aliens, strangers, having no hope** and being **without God**.

This shows that they were not only spiritually dead, but they also did not have the access to God that the Jews enjoyed.

**Quote:** (Stott quoting Hendriksen )

Before coming to Jesus, Gentiles were “Christless, stateless, friendless, hopeless and Godless.”

<b>2:12</b>
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#### **Eph 2:12**

12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

#### **A. Without Christ:**

These are terrible words, and speaks of the true condition of the lost man or woman.

To be **without Christ** means to be:

- Without spiritual blessings.
- Without light.
- Without peace.
- Without rest.
- Without safety.
- Without hope.
- Without a Prophet, Priest, or King.

**Quote:** (Spurgeon)

“Without Christ! If this be the description of some of you, we need not talk to you about the fires of hell; let this be enough to startle you, that you are in such a desperate state as to be without Christ. Oh! What terrible evils lie clustering thick within these two words!” (***Without Christ***)

**B. Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel:**

The Jews had tremendous religious' privileges, as God had revealed Himself to them.

**Rom 3:1-2**

1 What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?

2 Much in every way! Chiefly because to them were committed the oracles of God.

**Rom 9:4-5**

4 (*they*) are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;

5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

**C. Having no hope**

They had no promises to cling to, which resulted in them living without hope.

How precious and necessary is us to have Hope in God.

**Ps 16:9**

9 Therefore, my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices;

My flesh also will **rest in hope**.

**Ps 31:24**

24 Be of good courage,

And He shall strengthen your heart,

**All you who hope in the LORD.**

**Ps 146:5**

5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help **whose hope is in the Lord his God.**

**D. and without God in the world**

This lack of knowledge of the True God resulted in their idolatry.

**Gal 4:8**

8 When you did not know God, you served those which by nature are not gods.

**2:13 But NOW....we have been brought near**

**Eph 2:13**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

**A. But now in Christ Jesus:**

Those Gentiles who are **now in Christ Jesus** are no longer **far off**.

They are **made near** to the things of God, and the **blood of Christ** accomplishes this, by His sacrificial death.

**B. you who once were far off have been brought near**

To be far off and to be near were sayings in use among the Jews.

To be near signifies to be in a relationship with the Lord.

**Ps 73:28**

**28 But it is good for me to draw near to God;**

I have put my trust in the Lord GOD,

That I may declare all Your works.

**James 4:8c**

8c...**Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**

**ON THE opposite side of the Coin:**

To be far off signifies to be under God's displeasure.

It speaks of separation from the Lord, a separation caused by sin and unrighteousness.

**Is 59:1-2**

1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save;

Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

**2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God;**

**and your sins have hidden His face from you,**

**so that He will not hear.**

Many people suggest different ways to come **near** to God.

Some think you can come by keeping the law or by belonging to a Religion (such as Israel with Judaism, or even a member of some other type of church).

**But, the only way to be brought near to God is by the blood of Christ.**

What Jesus did on the cross, suffering as a guilty sinner in the place of guilty sinners, brings us **near** to God.

**C. By the blood of Christ:**

**WE WERE FAR OFF:** But now the blood of Christ has made us near to God.

**THIS MEANS:** That Jesus took our place and suffered as a substitute for us, and brought us to God.

**WHY?**

Because man could not atone for his own sins personally; because they are too great.

**Ps 49:6-9**

6 Those who trust in their wealth

And boast in the multitude of their riches,

7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother,

Nor give to God a ransom for him—  
 8 For the redemption of their souls is costly,  
 And it shall cease forever—  
 9 That he should continue to live eternally,  
 And not see the Pit.

This coming near happens only **by the blood of Christ**.

The Old Testament sacrifices in Judaism could, on occasion, “cover” sins, but not take away.

These sacrifices prefigured or were a type of the final and perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

**Heb 10:1-4**

1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.

2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered?

For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins.

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

**For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come**, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins.

**However, Jesus Christ's perfect offering does!!!**

**Eph 1:7**

7 In him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

**Col 1:14**

14 In (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

**1 Peter 1:18-19**

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,  
 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Gentiles who are not **in Christ Jesus** are just as **far off** as they ever were. This reconciliation only happens in Jesus.

**Note:**

- It is important that Paul connects the ideas of the great love of Jesus, and His sacrificial death.
- Many people think that preaching Christ crucified is all about a bloody, gory Jesus.
- But the point of Christ crucified is not gore, but love.
- Preaching Christ crucified means we preach Jesus full of love – sacrificial, giving, saving love.

**2:14 Jesus (He Himself) is our peace**

**Eph 2:14**

14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

**A. He Himself is our peace**

Jesus brings Jew and Gentile together, in Him, and has made them one new person, in which today we call "**the Church**", "**the Bride of Christ**" (**Ephesians 5**)

**Romans 10:11-13**

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

12 **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.**

13 For "**whoever calls** on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

**1 Peter 2:9-10**

9 But **you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 Once you were not a people, **but now you are the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**Important Note:**

**HE IS OUR PEACE**, Which is different than saying that He made peace (Vs15) The point is this, it is in Him that warring people can actually live in peace together.

The point is, He is "**OUR**" peace:

- Because He brought people hostile to one another together;
- Now they can live in peace with one another (Vs15)
- And as a result of this, that we now can proclaim peace to others (Vs17)

**B. who has made both (Jew and Gentile and any types of division) one.**

That He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross.

The way that Jews and Gentiles are reconciled to one another is by first reconciling with God.

Hostility ceases through the atonement of Jesus, on the Cross.

**Rom 2:28-29**

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

**Rom 5:10**

10 while we were enemies, **we were reconciled to God through the death of His son.**

**Col 1:20**

20 and **through him to reconcile to himself all things**, whether **things on earth** or things in heaven, by **making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.**"

This is something that **only Christ Himself can do, "HE HIMSELF"**,

On the Cross, Jesus through the "Power of the Blood and Cross", and now through the Holy Spirit living in the believer, can such things be accomplish.

The immediate division they were dealing with was the Religious Jew not wanting to worship God and be in fellowship with non-Jews (Gentiles).

Today there are all kinds of divisions all around the world.

This is always Satan's number one way to (John 10) "to steal, kill and destroy". It is by creating or pointing out "seeming divisions" among others to make a division occur.

We see it in our own county with the BLM organization.

Apparently, the Ephesians needed to be reminded of the unity they were to protect in Jesus.

Unity in Christ must be protected, because division undermines the gospel's power.

Paul will command us all in Ch. 4:

**Eph 4:3**

3 Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Remember earlier in the text, "He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near".

This reconciliation to God is intended to also produce reconciliation between people in the believing Church of God as well.

**C. and has broken down the middle wall of separation,**

The work of Jesus on the cross is the common ground of salvation for both Jew and Gentile.

Therefore, there is no longer any dividing wall between Jew and Gentile. Jesus broke that wall down.

**Quote: (Guzik)**

The **wall of separation** is gone because the common Lordship is greater than any previous division. If the Lordship of Jesus Christ is not greater than any difference you have with others – be it political, racial, economic, language, geography or whatever, then you have not fully understood what it means to be under the Lordship of Jesus.

<b>Conclusion</b>
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Right Now God wants all of us to know!!!

“Jesus is our Prince of Peace, and as our Peace, He gives us peace”.

Jesus is the only One capable of answering “THE QUESTION” to bring us peace. And that is the question of “where will I go when I die”?

**John 14:27**

27 "**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you**; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

**John 14:1**

1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

**John 6:28-29**

28 Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

**John 1:12**

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

**John 3:16**

16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**John 3:17**

17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**John 3:36**

36 "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."