

EPHESIANS 2:11-22

Two Made One: Breaking the Dividing Wall

Memory Verse

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

Ephesians 2:13

Real-life Problems

In North American culture, loyalty is rewarded. But with loyalty often comes rivalry. We are loyal to our favorite sports team and, in turn, we secretly hope all others will lose. We are loyal to our school, and we will fight anyone who says theirs is better. In our loyalty, it is natural for us to create an "us versus them" mentality. We love dogs, so we hate cats. And we do this in many areas of our lives, even at church. We believe our way is the best way and we separate ourselves from those who do not agree. Yet, Christ did not come for one type of person. Instead, He came to unite all of us to Him.

The Good News

Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, He not only preached peace, but made peace. Christ offered a way for all mankind to be brought into His family. He broke down the very thing that divided us and made us a new family in Him. God has made a way for all nations to be made one through Christ.

I. Introduction

What's going on?

REMIND

In the previous passage, we were reminded of who we were without Christ. We were all once dead in our sins and followers of the world. Yet, because of God's love for us and in an act of grace to us, He has made us alive with Christ. Now, through Christ, those who have faith in Him are given a purpose.

TODAY WE'LL LEARN

- 1) Because of who we once were, we were without hope.
- 2) Because of who Christ is, we have peace.
- 3) Because of who we now are, we have a new identity.

Read

Read **Ephesians 2:1-10** on your own.

II. Questions

A. WHAT?

1) Can you list the five descriptions Paul gives in verse 12 about who we once were without Christ?

2) This passage is similar to the passage right before it (2:1-10) in many ways. Can you identify some of the ways they are alike?

3) According to verse 13, what was it that brought near those who were far off from God?

4) Can you name the ways Christ made peace, according to verses 14-16?

5) According to verses 19-22, what physical images does Paul use to describe the new people of God?

6) According to verse 18, what do we now have access to through Christ?

B. SO WHAT?

1) Why would Paul spend time reminding the Ephesians of who they once were before Christ?

2) Compare verses 12 and 19. What do you think Paul is communicating through these two parallel verses?

3) What does it mean to say the household of God was "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets?"(v.20) Why is that an important foundation?

4) How did Christ create in Himself a "new man" in order to bring peace (vv. 15-16)?

C. NOW WHAT?

1) As the household of God, we are family—brothers and sisters in Christ. How should being family change the way we interact with the church?

2) What does this passage mean for us when we are upset or do not agree with a fellow Christian?

3) The temple and household of God is made up of people from all around the world—from all countries, cities, and languages. How does this change the way you worship with someone from another culture or church?

