

Ephesians 2:11-22

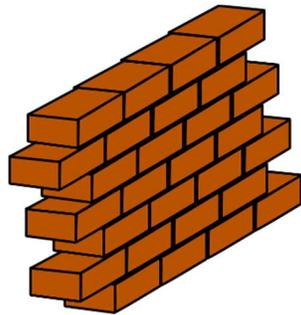
# OUR UNITY IN CHRIST

*I wonder if anything is more urgent today, for the honor of Christ and for the spread of the gospel, than that the church should be, and should be seen to be, what by God's purpose and Christ's achievement it already is—a single new humanity, a model of human community, a family of reconciled brothers and sisters who love their Father and love each other, the evident dwelling place of God by His Spirit. Only then will the world believe in Christ as Peacemaker. Only then will God receive the glory due to His name. —John R. W. Stott*

In Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul focuses on our salvation in Christ. In 2:11-22, he focuses on our unity in Christ. At the moment we are saved individually, we are also brought together corporately into a new community, a new family—Jews and Gentiles, Greek and barbarian, male and female, young and old, rich and poor, of every tribe, language, people and nation.

## LOOK AT THE \_\_\_\_\_ THAT ONCE SEPARATED US (2:11-13)

Gentiles  
Uncircumcised



Jews  
Circumcised



1. Without \_\_\_\_\_
2. Outside \_\_\_\_\_
3. No \_\_\_\_\_
4. No \_\_\_\_\_
5. Without \_\_\_\_\_

*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

*But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (2:13; cf. Isaiah 57:19).*

*The division seemed absolute, and any talk about reconciliation seemed impossible. Jew and Gentile! Jews and 'dogs'! But on the other hand the Gentiles had their classification, particularly the Greeks. The whole world, for them, was divided up into Greeks and Barbarians—the knowledgeable people, the philosophers, the Greeks on the one hand; the ignoramuses, the illiterate, the Barbarians on the other.*

—D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

*The Jew had an immense contempt for the Gentile. They said that the Gentiles were created by God to be fuel for the fires of Hell; that God loved only Israel of all the nations that he had made.*

—William Barclay

*The first century was an age of suicide. Tacitus tells of a man who killed himself in indignation that he had been born. For the Gentiles, history was going nowhere. There was no Messiah, no hope.*

—R. Kent Hughes

*God lived in the temple, those living near His dwelling-place and having access to Him were His people. Israel was near; the Gentiles were far away.*

—Charles Hodge

**LOOK AT OUR \_\_\_\_\_ WHO HAS TORN DOWN THE WALLS (2:14-18)**

*For He Himself is our peace...*

1. Christ has made two opposing groups into \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Christ has broken down the \_\_\_\_\_ between us.
3. Christ has rendered the separation caused by the law's perfect demands \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ by fulfilling the law in His flesh and instituting a new covenant by His death (cf. Heb. 7:11-8:13; Rom. 10:4; Gal. 3:19-25; Col. 2:11-14).

**GOD**



4. Christ, through the message of the gospel, continues to offer all people, both far and near, reconciliation to God and to one another (cf. Is. 57:19; Matt. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:18-21).

**LOOK AT THE \_\_\_\_\_ WHICH HAS NOW BROUGHT US TOGETHER IN CHRIST (2:19-22)**

- We are now fellow citizens and members of God's family.
- We are built together on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- We are joined together in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- We are growing together into the \_\_\_\_\_ of God inhabited by the Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 1 Pet. 2:4-10).

*Is there anyone that you need to forgive? Is there anyone that you need to ask forgiveness from? Seek reconciliation and pursue peace!*

Temple Warning: No stranger is to enter within the wall round the temple. Whoever is caught will be himself responsible for his ensuing death. (Josephus)

*God wanted them [Jews] to be so distinct that they would never be amalgamated with other people. He gave them such strict dietary, clothing, marriage, ceremonial, and other laws that they could never fit easily into another society. Those distinctions, like the special blessings God gave them, were intended to be a tool for witness. But Israel continually perverted them into a source for pride, isolation, and self-glory.*

—John MacArthur, Jr.

*In a world of enmity self-giving is the risky and hard work of love. ...When God sets out to embrace the enemy, the result is the cross.*

—Miroslav Volf

*Blessed are the peacemakers, and one sure way of peace-making is to let the fire of contention alone. Neither fan it, nor stir it, nor add fuel to it, but let it go out of itself. Begin your ministry with one blind eye and one deaf ear.*

—Charles Spurgeon

**The foundation of the apostles and prophets.** "In practical terms this means that the church is built on the New Testament Scriptures." (John R. W. Stott)

*The cornerstone was the first laid for the foundation, the lowest stable part of the building, and the position of all the other stones in the foundation was determined by this cornerstone.*

—Rudolf Schnackenburg