



October 17, 2021

**"GOD'S PEOPLE, HIS CHURCH"**  
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EPHESIANS 2:11-22 ESV

**MAIN IDEA:** Christ died to create a new community that is reconciled to God, reconciled to each other, functioning as God's agents of reconciliation to all peoples.

### **I. WHO WE WERE BEFORE CHRIST (2:11-12)**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

*Apart from God we were:*

Separated from Christ

Excluded from the commonwealth of Israel

Strangers to the covenants of promise

Having no hope

Without God in this world

**REALITY:** There is only one category of people who are outside God's Kingdom: sinners.

### **II. HOW GOD BROUGHT US INTO FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM (2:13-18)**

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**ANSWER:** God reconciled us to Himself through the blood shed for us on the cross (v. 13).

**REALITY:** The only place self really dies is at the cross.

Christ's work on the cross removed everything that separated us from Him and others:

Racial barriers are torn down.  
National barriers are torn down.  
Gender barriers are torn down.  
Social barriers are torn down.  
Economic barriers are torn down.  
Educational barriers are torn down.

**REALITY:** All who are in Christ are joined together in the common life of Christ: We are all one.

**TRUTH:** Our church on earth should look like the church in heaven.

### III. WHO WE ARE NOW AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD (2:19-22)

*<sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

Fellow citizens  
Household of God  
Holy temple

**REALITY:** God's people are built together, forming His Church, thereby becoming the very dwelling place for God and agents of reconciliation to all peoples.

### IV. OUR TASK AS THE CHURCH OF JESUS (3:10)

*<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.*

**TRUTH:** The task of God's Church is to make Jesus' name known to all peoples.

### V. CONCLUSION

*Response:*

1. Be reconciled to God.
2. Confess biases you have had toward other people.
3. Become an active member of this church.