

Ephesians 2:11-18 – Union with Christ

A. Introduction

- Paul continues to remind us of the spiritual blessing we have through Christ (1:3) – in Ephesians 1-3 he is opening the treasure chest.
- The gospel affects us personally (2:1-10) and corporately (2:11-22).
- He here addresses the Gentile majority in the church in Ephesus.

B. Alienation – the problem you faced (2:11-12)

Paul paints a very grim picture Gentiles without Christ.

❖ ***They were the “uncircumcised” (2:11)***

- This was a sneer - Jews treated Gentiles with contempt and animosity.
- They should have been a light to the Gentiles – but instead they treated them with contempt (Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:6).
- The division between them was symbolized by the wall that prevented Gentiles from entering the temple on pain of death,

❖ ***There was truth behind the sneers (2:12) They were:***

- **Christ-less** – they did not know that there was a Saviour.
- **State-less** – they were like aliens looking on from outside.
- **Friend-less** – they knew nothing of the God’s promises in the Covenants and the Bible was a closed book to them.
- **Hope-less** – they lived in fear of death – nothing pierced the gloom.
- **God-less** – they had many gods, they did not know the true God.

C. Transformation – the friendship you enjoy (2:13-15)

❖ ***“But now” - God brought them near through the blood of Christ***

- They know **Christ** as their Saviour and king – they are AD not BC.
- They belong to God’s **kingdom** and are no longer aliens.
- The **promises** of the Covenant have become theirs.
- They have a sure and certain **hope** (1 Peter 1:3-5).
- They know **God** and have assurance of a relationship with Him.
- The blessings promised to Israel have become theirs through Christ and His death on the cross.

❖ ***Christ did this – He is our peace (2:14-15)***

- He abolishing the barrier between Jews and Gentiles. The ceremonial law – food laws, washings, circumcision – acted as a barrier between them. When He died on the cross Jesus abolished these things (2:14).
- He created a new humanity – which superseded everything that had gone before (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:28; 6:15).

D. Reconciliation – the intimacy you experience (2:16-18)

❖ ***He reconciled both Jews and Gentiles to God (2:16)***

- His death also destroyed the sin that separated humans from God (Colossians 1:20-22).
- This was symbolized by the tearing of the temple curtain (Matthew 27:50-54).

❖ ***He preached this message of peace (2:17)***

- He preached peace when He rose from the dead (John 20:19-23).
- We are called to preach the gospel of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2).

❖ ***We now have an intimate relationship with the triune God (2:18)***

- Prayer involves us in the eternal loving relationship of the Trinity.
- We come to the **Father**, through the **Son**, in the power of the **Holy Spirit**.