

**Series "Our Riches In Christ"**  
**"Peace Through The Cross"**  
**Ephesians 2:11-22**  
**Study-8**

**Ephesians 2:1-10** is describing salvation to the individual, how a person that is a child of wrath, that is dead in sins can have **peace with God** through Jesus Christ.

Now **Ephesians 2:11-22** is how man can have **peace with man**.

**Ephesians 2:15**

**Thought Of The Passage:** "Elusive Peace With God And Man Has Been Accomplished Through The Sacrifice Of Jesus Christ."

**1. Verses 11-12 – Alienation**

**2. Verses 13-18 – Reconciliation**

**3. Verses 19-22 – Unification**

**1. Verses 11-12 – Alienation:**

Ephesians 2:11 – "Therefore" – Paul is referring back to Ephesians 2:1-10 that describes the condition of every man, woman and child prior to salvation and how an individual receives Jesus Christ. Salvation is by grace and received through faith.

"remember, that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh," – "remember" 2X verses 11,12. He is calling these Gentile believers, who were the majority in the Church, to remember their past before coming to Christ.

"who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands—" – This was a slur by the Jews on the Gentiles. Circumcision was a sign that Israel was different from the other nations. They had a contract, covenant with God.

"performed in the flesh by human hands—" – They had missed the whole point; they were glorying in an outward sign ritual, but God had given circumcision as a sign that they believed; New heart, regeneration.

Colossians 2:11

Ephesians 2:12

**Paul gives 5 areas of Alienation that the Gentiles were excluded from:**

- 1) **"remember that you were at that time separate from Christ,"** – They had no relationship with Christ. They had alienation because of sin.
- 2) **"excluded from the commonwealth of Israel,"** – Literally, "The Body Politic." Jews were born into this exclusive nation, chosen by God. The only way into the commonwealth was to be a "Gentile proselyte." Even then they were not on the same plane as the Jews.
- 3) **"and strangers to the covenants of promise,"** – All of the covenants that had been made were made with God's people, the Jews. The Gentiles had been blessed through the Jews, not directly but indirectly through Israel, Genesis 12:1-3.
- 4) **"having no hope"** – What hope is there today apart from a relationship with Jesus Christ?
- 5) **"without God in the world."** – Gentiles had gods all right. One of the sayings of that day was, "It is easier to find a god than a man." Ephesus had the great Temple to the goddess "Diana," the goddess of fertility.

## **2. Verses 13-18 – Reconciliation:**

Ephesians 2:13 – "But now in Christ Jesus" – What a phrase; it is like the passage in Ephesians 2:4, "But God."

"in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off" – Theme of the book, "In Christ." "far off" – Those that were not in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"have been brought near by the blood of Christ." – The cross of Jesus Christ was the greatest crime of all ages. It was the ultimate expression of man's hatred of God, rebellion and outrage. God turned it all around and it became the ultimate expression of His grace and love!

Ephesians 2:14 – "For He Himself is our peace," – "He" is emphatic in the Greek; it means that "He and He alone is our peace." There is no other way to God but through Jesus Christ, there is no other way of peace but Jesus Christ!

God the Father is called the "God of peace," Hebrews 13:20; God the Son, the "Prince of peace," Isaiah 9:6; God the Holy Spirit, the "Spirit. . . . of peace," Ephesians 4:3.

"who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall," – The two groups, Jews & Gentiles, were separated in every way.

Image Of Herod's Temple: "barrier of the dividing wall," – Paul was thinking of the structure of the Temple. There was a wall that divided the inner courtyard from the outermost courtyard.

There were stone inscriptions every so many feet which read: "No foreigner is to enter within the barrier and embankment around the sanctuary. Whoever is caught will have himself to blame for his death which follows." Paul had a riot on his hands in Acts 21:27-36.

Mark 11:17 – Jesus wanted to win the people to Himself; they made it a big divider.

The wall was physically destroyed in 70 AD, but it was spiritually destroyed before that in 33 AD, when Christ died on the cross.

Ephesians 2:15

**Verses 15-16 – Jesus broke down the dividing wall in 3 ways:**

The Means, The Power Is The Cross: By the cross abolishing enmity – hatred, hostility, there is hatred towards God and others because of sin.

- 1) **"which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances,"** – Matthew 5:17 – Jesus was referring to the ceremonial law, rules and regulations, Hebrews 9:10.
- 2) **"so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,"** – God made a "single new humanity," a "new man," "the Christian community," a "new human race."

Ephesians 2:16

- 3) **"might reconcile them,"** – "reconcile" – "to bring together again." It has the idea of friendship now, a re-uniting, a completeness of union.

Ephesians 2:17 – "FAR AWAY," – Gentiles; "THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;" – Jews. Both needed peace.

Luke 4:18 – As a matter of fact, the first words that Jesus spoke to the disciples after the resurrection were the words of peace, John 20:19-21.

Peace with God: Romans 5:1  
Peace of God: Philippians 4:7

Ephesians 2:18

Jesus made the way of access for all that would believe, Matthew 27:50-51.

### **3. Verses 19-22 – Unification:**

Ephesians 2:19

**3 Illustrations Of Unity!** Paul is speaking about the Church and its unity, but he never uses the name "Church."

- 1) **"Fellow Citizens"** – "no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints,"
- 2) **"God's household"** – A family. The only way into a family is to be born, or be adopted; the Bible states both. Born – John 3:3; Adopted – Ephesians 1:5.
- 3) **Temple** – Verses 20-22 – "foundation, corner stone," building material, stones.

Ephesians 2:20 – The Bible states that Jesus is the foundation, 1 Corinthians 3:11.

"apostles and prophets," – Preached and taught Jesus; it was their ministry that laid down the teachings of Christ.

"Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone," – Also called "The stone of testing."

Ephesians 2:21; 1 Peter 2:5

Ephesians 2:22 – God dwells in us and in the Church.

### **Application:**

1. Apart From Salvation, Man Lives In Utter Alienation From God. There Is No Hope Apart From God's Intervention.
2. Reconciliation Of Man To God Was Wholly Accomplished Through The Death Of Jesus Christ. Being Reconciled To God Then Allows All Believers, Without Exception, Equal Access To God.
3. Our Unification With Jesus Christ Is Likened To Being Fellow Citizens, Being God's Household Or Family. Believers, Like Living Stones, Are Being Built Into A Temple In Which God Will Dwell.