

## **CHRIST BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER**

*Ephesians 2:11-22*

**INTRODUCTION:** In this portion of his letter, Paul moves into a definitive teaching on corporate reconciliation, spiritual unity, and the destruction of cultural barriers through the cross of Jesus Christ. While the first half of Ephesians 2 focuses on how God saves individuals by grace, this second section details how God reconciles hostile group into a singular, unified spiritual family.

### **I. FROM FAR OFF TO BROUGHT NEAR *vv.11-13***

A. The Gentiles are reminded of what they once were. *v.11-12*

1. Ethnically, they were viewed simply as Gentiles in the flesh without the sign of circumcision. *1 Samuel 17:36*
2. Geographically, they were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel. *Psalms 122:1-4*
3. Spiritually, they were hopeless without knowledge of the one and true living God.

B. They are reminded of all the things they once lacked. *v.12*

1. They were without Christ, and had no true Messiah and Savior to bring them hope. *Colossians 1:27*
2. There was no knowledge of a God-given covenant which extended promises to them. *Deuteronomy 28:2*
3. They lacked companionship with the Creator of the universe.

C. The blood of Jesus was the catalyst that has now brought them from being an outsider to an insider. *v.13*

1. They are now in Christ Jesus, who served to change their position in the Kingdom of God.
2. This has all be made available because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ. *Romans 5:8-9*
3. It is a reminder of what once was to what now is, to which each of us as believers can relate.

## II. ONE PEOPLE BY ONE CROSS WITH ONE ACCESS

A. Christ, our peace. *v.14*

1. Peace is a person, not a feeling, and that person is Jesus Christ. *Philippians 4:7, John 14:27*
2. Because of the work of Jesus, He has made us one people. *Galatians 3:28*
3. He served to destroy the wall of division between the Jews and the Gentiles. *v.14, Acts 21:27-30*

B. Christ, our new humanity. *vv.15-16, Matthew 5:17*

1. Now that the wall is destroyed, the hostility has been tossed aside.
2. Therefore, He has created one new man that can now be found in Him.
3. Reconciliation with God has been extended to all mankind.

C. Christ, our way to the Father. vv.17-18

1. The message of peace is being proclaimed to all mankind.  
*Mark 16:15*
2. It is only through Christ that we have one access in one Spirit.  
*v.18, Acts 10:44-46*
3. The goal of this access is to have a relationship with the Father.  
*Galatians 4:6*

**III. WE ALL SHARE THE SAME CHIEF CORNERSTONE**

A. Our new identity: from outsiders to family. v.19

1. Paul assures them that they are no longer strangers and aliens.  
*Leviticus 22:10*
2. All believers are fellow citizens with the saints of God.
3. Even more pointedly, we are members of the household of God.  
*John 14:2*

B. Our firm foundation: Christ the cornerstone. v.20

1. The foundation of the building has been built through the message of the apostles and prophets.
2. Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone and without Him everything collapses. *Matthew 21:42*
3. The church is a unified strong structure. *Matthew 16:16-18*

C. Our growing temple: God's dwelling place. vv.21-22

1. Even through diversity, we are joined together into one building.
2. This building is intended to grow into a Holy temple.
3. The temple is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.  
*1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 3:16*

**CONCLUSION:** Ephesians 2:11–22 moves us from far to near, from enemies to family, from outsiders to God's dwelling place. Once separated and hopeless, we have been brought near by the blood of Christ, who is our peace and our new identity. In Him, divided people become one new humanity, reconciled to God and to each other, built together on Christ the cornerstone into a living temple where God now lives by His Spirit.