

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 2:11-18 Paul presents 3 truths concerning the reconciliation and unity of the church.

- I. Gentiles, though alienated, were reconciled to God.
 - A. Alienated from Christ (vs. 11-12a).
 - B. Alienated from the nation of Israel (v. 12b).
 - C. Alienated from the covenants (v. 12c).
 - D. Alienated from hope (v. 12d).
 - E. Alienated from God (v. 12e).
 - F. But now reconciled by Christ's blood (v. 13).
- II. Jews and Gentiles have been reconciled to God and each other by Christ.
 - A. Christ is our peace: He has made Jew & Gentile to be one (v. 14a).
 - B. Christ provides for peace: He has broken down the dividing wall of hostility (v. 14b).
 1. How? By abolishing the laws expressed in ordinances that divided them (v. 15a).
 2. Why?
 - a. To create one new man instead of two (v.15b).
 - b. To reconcile to God in one body through the cross (v. 16a).
 3. To what end?
 - a. To make peace (v. 15c).
 - b. To kill the hostility (v. 16c).
 - C. Christ preaches peace:
 1. To whom? Jews & Gentiles (v. 17).
 2. On what basis? Equal access to the Father in one Spirit (v. 18).
- III. **Reconciliation produces unity in the body of Christ.**
 - A. **Fellow citizens of God's kingdom (v. 19a, b).**
 - B. **Fellow members of God's household (v. 19c).**
 - C. **Built together into God's temple (vs. 20-22).**

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 14, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 2:19-22

Memory Passage: Ephesians 2:19-22 (review 1:1-2:18)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:19-22.** Summarize the content of vs. 11-18 to which Paul refers with the “So then” that begins v. 19.
- (b) What 3 new statuses do all believers possess as a result of being reconciled through the cross (vs. 19-22)?
- (c) What is the difference between a “stranger” and an “alien,” and to whom is Paul referring (Jews, Gentiles, or both)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:19-22, Gal. 4:26, Phil. 3:17-4:1, Heb. 11:8-10, 12:18-29, 13:14, (opt. Rev. 21).** To whom does “saints” refer in Eph. 2:19?
- (b) Examine the passages above and record what you learn about (1) the true kingdom in which believers are citizens, & (2) our relationship to this world based on our true citizenship.
- (c) Write down at least 3 implications of the fact that believers are no longer “strangers and aliens” but are now “fellow citizens with the saints,” even though we are still citizens of America and live in the hope of our not-yet-fully-realized home.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:19-22.** There are 6 Greek words in vs. 19-22 that have as their root the Greek word for “house,” οἶκος (*oikos*): “aliens,” “members of the household,” “built,” “structure,” “are being built,” & “dwelling place.”
- (b) What have you learned from your study of Ephesians 1-2 concerning believers being part of God’s household/family?
- (c) How do believers being “fellow citizens with the saints” in God’s kingdom and “members of God’s household” counter their previous status as “strangers” and “aliens,” and how do these new statuses reverse the language of v. 12?
- (d) What are the benefits and privileges you experience daily as “a member of God’s household?”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:19-22.** Paul transitions in v. 20 to the metaphor of God’s people as His dwelling place. It is an easy transition because the Greek word for “house” can be used to refer to any building, including the temple (cf. Matt. 21:13).
- (b) To whom do the terms “apostles” and “prophets” refer (i.e. are apostles the 12 or a wider group, are prophets OT, NT, or both, how do you know, etc.), and how are they the foundation of this spiritual house into which believers are built and in which God dwells?
- (c) What is a cornerstone (cf. Is. 28:16), and what does this tell us about Jesus’ relationship to the apostles & prophets?
- (d) To what or whom does the word “structure” refer (v. 21)? Explain how it “is being joined together” and how it “grows.”

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 2:19-22, John 2:19-21, 1 Cor. 3:16-17, 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1, & 1 Pet. 2:1-12.** What do you learn from these passages concerning the church being God’s spiritual temple (include explanations of how the OT teaching on temple is fulfilled in the NT, how our union with Christ explains our status, how this status must affect our daily conduct, etc.)?
- (b) How does this truth (i.e. God’s people being His temple & dwelling place) happen “by the Spirit” (v. 22)? Don’t miss the Trinitarian focus of v. 22!
- (c) What are the corporate implications of this truth for BCC? How should it affect our ministry?

DATE: May 14, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 2:19-22

Reconciliation Produces Unity