

CHRISTIAN UNITY

Ephesians 2:11-22

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When have you experienced bias, prejudice, been shut out or shut others out?

What relationship in your life still needs the wall knocked down?

How will that happen?

What is God's purpose?

The two major obstacles to God building His family:

1. To bring men from death to life. (vss 1-10)
2. Overcome the barriers separating people.

Paul confronts the second obstacle in two ways:

1. Remember the former social and spiritual alienation of those Jews and Gentiles.
2. Then he describes their new spiritual unity in Christ Jesus.

The “therefore” of vs 1 points back to what Jesus did for them in vs 1-10.

What was the importance of circumcision?

Why did God choose the Jews? (*Deuteronomy 7:6; Amos 3:2*)

1. To be a witness to God’s blessings
2. To be a vehicle through which the Messiah/Savior would come

Paul (vs 12) characterizes the Gentiles spiritual alienation:

1. Separated from Christ
2. Excluded from citizenship in Israel

3. Foreigners to the covenants of the promise

4. They were without hope

5. They were without God in the world

“But now...” (vs 13) everything is different “through the blood of Christ.”

What is the root cause of all hatred and discord?

What is the solution?

What is the purpose of the Lord's table (communion)?

Jesus alone is our peace. (vs 14)

What law did Jesus abolish? How? Why was this necessary?

Jesus' purpose was to create a new humanity, no longer Jew, no longer Gentile – but Christian.

See *Romans 10:12-13*

We have access to God. (*vs 18*)

We have citizenship in heaven and members of God's family.
(*vs 19*)

We are God's dwelling place. (*vs 22*)