

September 29, 2024
Ephesians 2:11-22
“Cornerstone”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Gentiles, beforehand you were (1)separated from Christ, (2)you were not a part of the citizenship of Israel. You were alienated, standing on the outside looking in with no remedy, excluded. You were (3)foreigners to the covenants of the promise, no direct participation in God’s covenants. The covenants were the: Abrahamic **Genesis 12, 15, and 17**, Palestinian **Deuteronomy 28-30**, the Davidic **II Samuel 7:16**, and the New covenant **Jeremiah 31:31-34**. Therefore, unlike Israel, Gentiles were (4)without hope of future glory and blessing. Most sadly and significantly, they were (5)without God.

Vv 15-16, Jesus’ physical death brought an end to the Law. It was rendered “inoperative” in the lives of all believers. Before this the Jews sought to keep the Law and the Gentiles were unconcerned about the laws. Christ is the end of the Law, see **Romans 10:4**. Jesus did this with the purpose of making for Himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace. This new man, this new body is the church. Gentiles do not become Jews nor vice a versa, believers become Christians, a whole new single entity. Secondly, the enmity was destroyed to reconcile both Jew and Gentile believers to Himself in one body. This was only possible by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Enmity, hostilities, extinguished.

Believers in Jesus are fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household. This began on the day of Pentecost. As new believers come along they are included in the superstructure of the church, the church is a living organism, growing as people’s souls are added.

“If believers have no distinction before God, they should have no distinction among themselves. We are fellow citizens and fellow family members equal in every spiritual way before God. If God accepts each one of us, how can we not accept each other?” *John MacArthur*.

Notice the Trinity in **vv 18 and 22**. God The Father, God The Son, God The Holy Spirit.

Application:

Chief cornerstone, so important to the “proper” layout in construction then and today. Must be within boundaries and facing the proper way etc. Christ did all of this and properly too, there is no other foundation.