



Understanding Who I Am

# Ephesians

Becoming Who We Are

One In Christ

# Ephesians: One in Christ 2:11-22



Ephesus and Paul

Reminder – You Are.....

Celebrate & Encourage, praying that.....

You were.... But God.....

Now we respond...

“<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”



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<sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace,

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<sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup> So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, <sup>21</sup> in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



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1. Remember How it Was vs. 11-12
  - critical to perspective and posture
  - a) Divide between Jews and Gentiles
    - religious
    - social & cultural
    - bloodline – racial
  - b) Reality of Situation
    - separated
    - alienated

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- strangers
- no hope

## 2. Game Changer

- But Now.... In Christ.....

a) reconciled – two made one

- dividing wall torn down

b) implications of this

- law of commandments dealt with



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- no longer identified by our divisions
- peace available for all:
  - with God
  - with others
- killing hostility
- access to Father through one Spirit\
  - equally

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## 3. New Reality 19-22

a) No Longer \_\_\_\_\_ now \_\_\_\_\_

- strangers and aliens
- fellow citizens with saints, members of household of God

b) New Foundation for Building on

- cornerstone – Jesus
- building – apostles and prophets
- equipping and building up....



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## c) Holy temple, dwelling place for God

- reality of Gods presence with his people
- felt and experienced by his children
- seen by the world
- people set apart, built up and equipped by God himself, where his very presence is seen and encountered, where they are one regardless of background, ethnicity, gender etc. Dividing walls torn down!

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## So What

1. Check your Perspective and Posture – Remember.....
  - there was a divide, you were separated.
  - others are in that situation
  - how do you view others vastly different?
    - religious, social / cultural, ethnicity
  - \*can we become passionate about seeing them encounter Christ the way we have?



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- 2. Consider what the Cross made Possible
  - a) peace with God through the cross
  - b) 2 made one – equal status in Christ
  - c) walls of hostility demolished
    - reconciled to one another
    - fellow citizens, family members
    - woven together in Christ

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## 3. Embracing the New Reality

### a) welcoming & embracing new believers

- new to family of God
- new to our group

### b) building together

- Jesus the cornerstone
- equipping and growing the body

### c) living as the Holy Temple

- presence of God empowering, changing us