

TRUE IDENTITY



IN HIM, WE ARE ONE
March 8, 2020

11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)— 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:11-22

WEEKLY SERMON REFLECTION

- ◆ How did the sermon this week from the passage above speak to you personally?
- ◆ Why is that important to you?
- ◆ What is the biggest challenge of that truth?

HEAD

- ◆ Can you think of a time in your life when you felt like an outsider? How would you describe that experience?
- ◆ Why is remembering the former life important in our journey as believers? (Look at Eph. 2:11-13 for perspective)
- ◆ How do you think the practicing Jews felt when these Gentiles started coming to their church but didn’t want to adopt the Jewish custom of circumcision or any other of their traditions?
- ◆ Why do you think “dividing walls of hostility” seem to drive people, churches, or cultures more than the peace that Jesus brings? What tends to be the root of this, and how is it played out?



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HEART

- ◆ First, Jesus IS our peace (vs. 14), then he MAKES peace (vs. 15). Why is this progression significant? Or why must we have peace with God before we can have peace with others?
- ◆ Why is it essential that the church celebrates diversity within its unity? How does the gospel allow us to do this?
- ◆ Read Ephesians 2:17-22. How did Jesus' life and death bring peace for both Jews and Gentiles? In what ways this past week have you experienced this peace?
- ◆ We find images of citizen, family, and building in this text. What are the implications of being a citizen of God's Kingdom? As a citizen, how should our interactions with one another be different because we are all members of God's family?

ACTION

- ◆ Where in your life do you find people different from you? How do you interact with them? How should the peace of God change, improve or give you a new perspective on the relationship with them?
- ◆ How can you live/love/serve in our church to break down the walls that divide us?
- ◆ What ideas do you have that could bring about more unity at our church to live out the gospel truth found in Ephesians 2:11-22? Please email Phil Shields some of these ideas at pshields@wheatonbible.org.

