



#4 New Humanity [Ephesians 2:10-22]

The Problem [A Case Study of the Hostility Between Jew & Gentile]

A 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— ¹² 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. (vs11-12)

- Jesus Came Not Simply To FULFILL The Hope of Israel, But To Give Hope To The Gentile World .
- Israel Took God’s Good GIFT (The Law) And Made It A Point Of Separation & Hostility.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, (vs13-15)

*“We Get Our Identity By Comparing Ourselves To Others And In The Process,
We Erect Wall Of Division & Hostility”*

- A People Who Have Truly Been RECONCILED To God, Cannot Help But Be Reconciled To Each Other

that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (vs15-18)

- In Order For A Church To Be UNIFIED It Has To Be Connected To The Word of God And The Person of Jesus”

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, (vs20)

Three Progressive Images That Describe The New Humanity

#1. A Political Image – Fellow CITIZENS

⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens,^[d] but you are fellow citizens with the saints

#2. A Family Image – The HOUSEHOLD of God
members of the household of God

#3 A Spiritual Image – A Holy TEMPLE

in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by^{en} the Spirit.

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

- Have you ever sought to be a part of a new country, a new group, a new circle of friends. Describe that experience

Read Ephesians 2:11-16

- How does Paul describe Gentiles before they became a part of the church?
how accurately does this describe your life before Christ?
- What did Jesus do specifically for the Gentiles? (vs 12-14) What did Jesus do specifically for the Jewish people? (vs 14-15?)
- What challenges usually emerge when groups of people who use to be separated come together to form one group?

Read Ephesians 2:17-22

- How did Jesus death and resurrection bring peace for both Jews & Gentiles?
- In what way have you personally experienced this peace?
- Respond to the statement; *“A People Who Have Been Reconciled To God Cannot Help But Be Reconciled To Each Other”*
- Paul uses the images of Citizenship, Family and Holy temple to describe the new unified humanity God is establishing in his church. How would each of these imases describe you before and after you came to Christ?
- What are the implication of been a citizen of God’s Kingdom, a member of God’s family and dwelling place for God? How does this change the way you view the church?

Sources:

Timoth Keller “Ephesians -Who is the Church” <https://gospelinlife.com/>

Libin Abraham – Bent Tree Bible – “One Body, One Church” <https://benttree.org/visit/>

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