

*“A Trophy of Grace: The New Testament Church”*

*Eph. 2:11-22*

*Knowing Him and Making Him Known*

When we were without Christ, we were fractured and disenfranchised. We were “discombobulated” and broken. But through His cross work, we have not only been reconciled to God, but to each other. We are now, as the people of God, all members of one body. Ephesians 3:8-12 tell us that the church will stand as a testimony of God’s lavish grace to heaven’s inhabitants.

I. The believer's reconciliation accomplished (2:11-18)

A. We were separated from God (2:11-12).

Throughout Ephesians, Paul paints the darkest picture possible of what life is like apart from Christ. Today, you may never feel the bite of depravity’s sting, yet this is what you were and still are if you are without Christ.

B. We have been reconciled with God (2:13-17).

Notice again the intervention of God with, “But now!” Notice the contrast between verses 12 and 13.

1. The blood of Jesus (v. 13)

We were once at “arms length,” but are now brought into His presence.

2. The broken wall (v. 14)

The predominant thought of verse 14 is peace and reconciliation.

This is the point of Galatians 3:26-29. Paul’s point is not that they do not exist, but that they do not matter.

3. The abolished enmity (v. 15)

4. The one body (v. 16)

Think of all God has done to bring us together as a fellowship. We stand together as a fellowship because the only begotten Son of God shed His blood on Calvary’s cross. **Think of the price He paid for this fellowship to exist.** Body unity takes precedence

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over doctrinal conformity. Doctrinal conformity is impossible this side of the grave. **I am convinced we can have body unity even with doctrinal diversity when we understand the reason why this fellowship even exists. We will be a unified fellowship when we live in light of a reigning grace.**

C. We are now invited before God (v. 18).

II. The believer's relationship unified (2:19-22)

A. Negatively stated (v. 19)

Notice the contrast created between vv. 11, 12 and 19.

B. Positively stated (v. 20-22)

Notice the progression of thought found in vv. 20-22. Notice the three-fold description of our new relationship as saved gentiles.

1. Fellow citizens with the saints
2. The household of God
3. The dwelling place of God

This is what we are as a local church fellowship because of His cross work. We are not called upon to play church and to simply go through our Sunday disciplines. We are the church, the household of God, the dwelling place of the most high.