

Believers Together: Discovering the Word – January 11th, 2023

Discovering the Book of Ephesians - One in Christ—Ephesians 2:11–22

Open It

1. What people have you known whose upbringing and family connections provided them with certain advantages?

Eph 2:11-22

¹¹ 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.

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ 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, 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.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

²¹ 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 the Spirit.

Explore It

2. Why was being uncircumcised a desperate problem for the Gentiles? (2:11–12)
3. How did Christ’s work on the cross transform the condition of the Gentiles? (2:13)
4. Why did Christ end the hostility between Jews and Gentiles? (2:14–16)
5. What is the result of believing the message of Christ? (2:17–18)
6. In Christ, how did the Gentiles achieve new spiritual and social status? (2:19)
7. On what foundation were the Ephesian believers built? (2:20)
8. How was the church described as living and growing? (2:21)
9. How did God live in the Ephesian Christians? (2:22)

Get It

10. How does the gospel break down religious and social barriers?
11. How should churches treat foreigners and aliens?
12. In Christ, what is every Christian’s relationship to other Christians?

Apply It

13. How can you show God’s love to an “outsider” this week?