

Reconciled Ephesians 2:11-22

Before Christ we were alienated, estranged, separated - separated from God, and separated from other people. But now in Christ we are not only reconciled to God, we can also become reconciled to one another in one new family. As this reconciliation arises, the Church will shine as a beautiful foreshadowing of the Kingdom of God for a broken world, with men and women from every tribe, tongue, people and nation unified in worship and in witness.

Division among people exists everywhere and has always existed

- Genesis 3:8; 4:1-7; 4:23-24; Titus 3:3

2:11-12. We once were outsiders

- Apart from Messiah
- Covenants of promise = Abrahamic, Davidic, New

2:13-18. Now we are reconciled

- Reconciled both groups to God in the same way (vertical) – 2:16
 - “Reconciled.” Romans 5:10; 2 Cor 5:18a, 19a (cf. col 1:20, 22)
- Reconciled both groups to one another (horizontal) – 2:16
 - Groups don’t move toward one another, but toward God, then they’re together!
 - There is no reconciliation to one another apart from being reconciled to God
- What caused the division?
 - Fear of destruction or defilement – Acts 10:28
 - Pride in self-righteousness – Phil 3:4-6; Luke 18:11
 - Not God’s intention in choosing Israel to show their superiority
 - Dt 7:7; Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:6; Zech 2:11.
 - Salvation not FOR the Jews but FROM the Jews
 - Used the Law of Moses to keep all non-Jews away from God
 - Rendered obsolete, inoperative – Hebrews 8:13, Romans 10:4
- Cross destroys pride – Romans 3:9; 1 Cor 1:26-31; 1 Cor 4:7; Gal 3:28
- Cross destroys fear – Psalm 118:6
- “The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.” – Oswald Chambers

2:19. Now we are one in Christ

- The most important thing about you is your membership in God’s family
- We are a new humanity ruled by peace – Ephesians 2:14-15; 1 Cor 10:32
- We are a new community where God dwells – 2:19-22; Rev 7

Application

Identify with Jesus Christ

- Confess putting too much stock in identity apart from Christ
- Confess superior attitude toward others

Initiate with “outsiders”

- Don’t wait for others to initiate with you

Invite outsiders into the Family – 2 Cor 5:18-20