

## **Ephesians**

*One in Christ*

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### **Ephesians 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.*

- These divisions between Jewish and Gentile communities were not merely cultural; they were spiritual, social, and personal.
- Paul's prayer in Ephesians 1 was not merely that believers would gain more information or become more religious. His prayer was that their eyes would be opened to see Jesus rightly.

### **John 17:20-23**

*20 “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.*

*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.*

- This is the gospel! The gospel does not simply make Jews better Jews or Gentiles better Gentiles, it creates a new people in Christ.
- Jesus did not come to establish peace and unity passively. He came to establish peace through the revelation of who He is and for those who will follow Him.

### **Matthew 10:34-39**

*34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to set a man against his father, and a*

*daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. 36 And a person's enemies will be those of his own household. 37 Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38 And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

*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.*

- Citizens – We are no longer outsiders; we belong to God's kingdom.
- Family – We are members of God's household; the church is not merely an organization but God's family.
- Temple – God is building His people together into a holy temple where His presence dwells.

**The Point: God is not simply saving individuals; He is forming a people. The closer we move toward Christ, the closer we move toward unity.**

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