

In.

Ephesians 2:14-22

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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.

Ephesians 2:14-22 Cont.

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."

Main Thought:

One God with One plan fulfilled by One with One way to make ONE people.

Problems:

The body, us, the church, are to be ONE people. We struggle with these concepts in the west but it is the destiny for glory of God to be revealed through this ONE group.

Some times Christians treat people like “outsiders” much like the Jewish people did the Gentiles and thus we separate what God has planned to join. We will not reach people this way.

God’s answer is that the true Israel has become the church and the church has emerged as the true Israel.

Isaiah 49:3-“And [God] said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

Jeremiah 13:11- God says that he chose Israel and made them his own possession "that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory."

In A Walk Through The Text We Learn How To Be ONE:

“He is our peace” (v.14) “so making peace” (v. 15)

**Peace is not a mechanism or religious system but a person.
There is no peace outside of Jesus**

“who has made us both one” (v. 14-15)

It was not a question of the Gentile becoming a Jew to become a Christian, but the Jew admitting he was a sinner like the Gentile. We must stop looking down upon anyone who is not a follower of Jesus and be quick to admit the we all have the same need for the reconciliation of Christ.

“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.” (v. 15-17)

“reconcile” is Ἀποκατάλλαξις (apocatalaxe)-to pass from enmity to complete reconciliation (the word denotes the whole process of reconciliation as completed)

So long as we keep thinking of division we will never seek multiplication.

We must be a reconciling people because we are a reconciled people.

“For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.” (v. 18)

There should be an amazement in the eye of every follower of Christ over the reality of ACCESS!

We have been given a new disposition to realize our new position of privilege. The Spirit gives us our new identity to create an intimacy with the Father.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,” (v. 19)

“aliens” is *παρόικοι*- it denotes persons dwelling in a place, but without citizen rights and privileges

So in Christ you are:

Now nearer in relation to God

Higher in privileges with God

Permanent in our dwelling with God

“built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone...” (v. 20)

Being placed in the corner, determined the lines of the whole building. The cornerstone is the regulating and pattern-producing aspect of the whole.

Jesus determines the place and the office of each stone, he gives life and character to each member.

So, it's not you trying to discover where you fit into the body that is the issue but knowing the CHIEF CORNERSTONE who shows you where you fit.

“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.” (v. 21-22)

We must always remember we are “joined”

God’s plan is for you to be growing is into a temple not just into an individual

For God: We are a place to be a “dwelling” not hosting!



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