

Dear Church (Part 5)
One: What Does it Mean to Me [Eph. 2:11-22]
Pastor Jeff Borden
May 28, 2017

What We Were:

What is a **Gentile**? (Strong's ref. #1484 – Greek *éthnos*) – properly, people joined by practicing similar customs or common culture; nation(s), usually referring to unbelieving Gentiles (non-Jews).

Who We Were:

- Separate
- Excluded
- Without Hope
- Without God

What He Did:

- Brought us Peace – uniting Jews and non-Jews (v 14, 17)
- Destroyed Hostility – broke barriers (v 14, 16)
- Created One People – one new humanity out of two (v 15)
- Access to the Father – united us with the Holy Spirit (v 18)

What it Means:

- See, Respect, and Treat all people as the image of God
- Aspire, Learn, and practice to love all people
- For any and all Christians especially, in essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, and in all things charity (love)

Reference Texts (support and additional reflection)

- Matthew 5:43-48, Matthew 7:15-20
- Luke 6:27-36
- John 13:33-35
- Acts 15:19-21
- Romans 12:14-21
- 1 Cor. 13, 1 Cor. 16:14
- Colossians 3:1-4
- 1 Peter 3:8—4:19
- 1 John 4—5

Dear Church (Part 5)

One: What Does it Mean to Me [Eph. 2:11-22]

Pastor Jeff Borden

May 28, 2017

HomeGroup and Personal Study Questions

- The Apostle Paul begins, in verse eleven, reminding his readers that they are/were Gentiles and “outsiders.” In what way or ways does this statement relate to you? What does “Gentile” mean to you? What does being an “outsider” mean to you? Who are the Gentiles and outsiders to you in your circles of influence?
- We are reminded yet again that God has “united us with Christ” (vs 13). The contrast the Apostle makes is that “you were once far away from God, but now you have been brought near...” Do you feel near to God? Can you explain your answer in detail giving examples?
- Verse 14 informs us that “Christ has brought peace to us...for he himself is our peace.” What are your thoughts about this statement? Do you experience “peace” from Christ? Can you explain what peace looks like in real day-to-day living from your life? What if you do not experience peace from Christ; what might that mean? How might the believer experience constant peace from Christ or is constant peace an impossibility? Please provide support for your answers.
- Verses 14-15 continue the instruction that Christ has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility and “created one new humanity...making peace between the factions.” How do you interpret this teaching? In what way(s) is this realized in the 21st century, or is it? What does “one new humanity” look like in our world? What does “one humanity” look like in Christendom?
- The language the Apostle Paul uses in describing the work God has done in reconciling humanity is careful and precisely chosen to describe the Gentiles have not been added to Israel, but God created a new entity altogether—one new man, or “one body” (2:15, 16). How does this affect you? What does one new man or one body really mean to you?
- Paul concludes his thoughts in this portion of text (vs 18-22) saying, “We have access to the Father by one Spirit” and “we are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Can you explain how we should interpret these statements? What do these statements mean to us in our practical lifestyles?