

Grace Bible Church
Adult Elective Winter 2017
Topic: Ephesians
Facilitator: David W. Brzezinski
Textbook Recommended: Living Insights - Ephesians by Chuck Swindoll

Ephesians Chapter 2:11-22

- The second chapter of Ephesians reminds us of how we have been rescued from the “lowest of lows” and raised to the “highest of heights” with Christ.
- In the beginning of chapter 2, Paul reminded his reader that they were dead in sin, but that through Christ they had been made alive again.
- In the end of chapter 2, Paul addresses the “wall” which was put up in the Old Testament. This wall was intended to keep Israel morally and ethically “pure”, to keep them “set apart” from other peoples. It helped to ensure their spiritual heritage. It also kept them separate from the Gentiles. Christ, however, broke that wall and allowed perfect unification between Jew and Gentile.
- **2:11-12**
 - Paul writes that the Gentiles were formerly separate, excluded, strangers, and hopeless.
 - Gentiles were not looking for a Messiah. The Messiah had been promised to come through Israel and the Jews.
 - Gentiles had no citizenship in God’s chosen nation (as Israel was God’s chosen people and nation).
 - No friendship or close relationship with God. Israel (through the land, Davidic, and new covenants) had a friendship and close relationship with God.
 - The Gentiles, apart from God, had no meaning, purpose, or value in life.
 - The Gentiles had many “gods” they worshipped, but they did not worship the True God.
- **2:13-14**
 - After giving the hopelessness of the Gentiles (vv. 11-12), Paul moves forward to the revelation of the solution to the problem. Jesus life, death, burial, and resurrection.
 - Cf. Gal. 3:28 – the wall of separation between Jew and Gentile had been removed with Christ’s finished work on the cross.
 - God’s grace and mercy as seen through Christ’s sacrifice allow us a healed relationship with God and with humanity.
 - There should be no ethnic, gender, educational, socioeconomic, etc. barriers between believers.

- **2:15-16**
 - Christ's victory on the cross (over sin and death) put an end to "enmity" (Gk. *echthra*) which existed between God and humanity and between humanity and itself.
 - The body of Christ is the church, and is the "one new man" with Christ as the head.
 - Via Christ, and only via Christ can true peace exist.
- **2:17-22**
 - There is now peace between Jews and Gentiles and they can dwell in unity together.
 - Having been reconciled to God, we (Jew and Gentile) are now also reconciled together.
 - All, whether Jew or Gentile, still need to respond to God's grace and mercy via faith and repentance.
 - What does(do) our relationship(s) look like?
 - The Holy Spirit gives us direct access to our Heavenly Father.
 - Cf. Matt. 27:50-51
 - Gentiles (and Jews) have common standing with prophets of old. They are also "citizens" in God's nation.
 - We are all (Jew and Gentile) part of an extended family with Christ as the head and the Holy Spirit the bond holding us all together.
 - What does this practically mean re growth, support, accountability, etc.?
 - Jew and Gentile have a common faith (grace and mercy from God received through faith and repentance of the sinner).
- **Application:**
 - Do you believe it?
 - Have you received it?
 - Are you living it?