

***Belonging: Our New
Spiritual Family***

PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 2:11-22



Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) —

remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 2:13

For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,

Ephesians 2:14

by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace,

and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.

He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.

Ephesians 2:17

For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Ephesians 2:18

*Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers,
but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of
His household,*

built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

Ephesians 2:21

And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.

Once You Were (2:11,12)



...the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.

Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

The Gentiles were 'Christless, stateless, friendless, hopeless and Godless'.

Now You Are (2:13–18)





Encyclopædia Britannica

The new community of which these Gentiles have become a part is not simply a development out of Israel. It is a new creation.

The resulting new humanity transcends the two old entities, even though unbelieving Israel and disobedient Gentiles continue to exist.

It is both Jews and Gentiles who are in need of God's saving grace that are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. [This passage] speaks not of a union of Jews and Gentiles but of redeemed Jews and Gentiles who are in Christ.

Peter O'Brien

When the church is least like the world, it does the most for the world.

Warren Wiersbe

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, “Your God reigns!”

Isaiah 52:7

...creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, to those far and near,” says the LORD. “And I will heal them.”

For although **potentially** the single new humanity was created when Jesus abolished the divisive law on the cross, **actually** it comes into existence and grows only by personal union with Himself.

The vertical peace that believers have with God is foundational for this horizontal peace.

Peace is not just the cessation of hostilities. That's what we call a ceasefire. Peace is the reconciliation of two people or groups which results in harmony. It is a restored relationship.

We Are Becoming (2:19–22)



The only hope of the world is to reconcile diverse people through Jesus Christ. All of our other solutions will fall short.

All barriers based on factors such as race and gender are obliterated by the cross. This doesn't mean these distinctions don't exist; instead, these distinctions are absorbed into something bigger.

Our sociological experience should be catching up with our spiritual reality.



The new temple is neither a material building, nor a national shrine, nor has it a localized site. It is a spiritual building (God's household) and an international community (embracing Gentiles as well as Jews),

and it has a worldwide spread (wherever God's people are to be found). This is where God dwells. He is not tied to holy buildings but to holy people, to His own new society.

John Stott

**The work of Christ
makes bitter enemies
a divine family.**

