

Look Who God Let into the Church

Ephesians 2:11-22

Ephesians 2:10, 22

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them...

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Diversity and Unity in the Church

- **“The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind” (Matt. 13:47).**
- **“In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith ... There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And ... Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:26.29).**

Jews and Gentiles

- **Ethnically different**
- **Socially different**
- **Morally different**
- **Religiously different**
- **Both felt superior and looked down on one another**
- **BUT ... there was also diversity among the Jews and among the Gentiles**

Breaking down the Text

- **The separations of the past, 2:11-13**
- **The new man of the present, 2:14-18**
- **The church of the future, 2:19-22**

1. The Separations of the Past, 2:11-13

“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 — 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. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

What were you formerly?

- **Notoriously sinful?**
- **Hypocritically proud?**
- **From the wrong background?**
- **Raised in another religion, or no religion?**
- **In Christ Jesus it does not matter what you used to be, only what God calls you to be.**

2. The New Man of the Present, 2:14-18

“For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 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, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.”

The Court of the Gentiles

- Anyone could enter regardless of religion
- Gave Israel an opportunity to witness to the nations about God
- Became a place of money-changers
- Christ cleansed it and then performed healing miracles there (Matt. 21:12-17)
- But through the cross he broke down all that excludes men from God, and all can come to God through Him.

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The New Man

**“You were taught ... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”
(Eph. 4:20-24).**

3. The Future of the Church, 2:19-22

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

In the Church...

- All are of the same rank and status
- All share in the same foundation
- All are a valuable and important piece of the temple of God
- All share in the same Spirit of God