

Outline of Ephesians 1-3

- I. God's eternal purpose in Christ (1:3 – 3:21)
 - A. Spiritual blessings in Christ (1:3-14)
 - B. Paul's prayer for them in Christ (1:15-23)
 - 1. Have the spirit of wisdom and revelation (1:15-19)
 - 2. Understand the exalted position of Christ (1:20-21)
 - 3. Know the authority of Christ over the church (1:22-23)
 - C. God's plan for our salvation (2:1-10)
 - D. The difference Christ makes (2:11-22)
 - 1. God's family is different (2:11-12)
 - 2. God's law is different (2:14-15)
 - 3. God's foundation is different (2:20)
 - 4. God's temple is different (2:21-22)
 - E. The church is according to God's eternal purpose (3:1-21)

Remember Your Former Separation

(There is benefit in remembering your former separation)

- Without Christ
 - Aliens from the nation of Israel
 - Strangers from the covenants of promise
 - Having no hope
 - Without God in the world
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- Therefore, Christless, stateless, homeless, hopeless, Godless (Colly Caldwell, Commentary on Ephesians)

The Remedy for the Separation

Now made near by the blood of Christ

(continuing the theme of chapters 1-3: Salvation is through Christ)

- He made both Jew and Gentile one
- Accomplished through:
 - Ending of the Law of Moses
 - Broke down the middle wall of partition between us
 - Abolished in His flesh the enmity
 - Creating one new man in Christ through the

What did Christ Do?

Made us both at peace with God

- Christ reconciled us to God
 - In one body
 - Through the cross
- Christ preached peace to both Jew and Gentile
- Christ became our way of access to the Father

The Result of Christ's Reconciling Work

- Gentile and Jew are equal in one body
- The one body is
 - The kingdom (citizens, v.19)
 - The church (saints, v.19)
 - The household (members, v.19; sons, 1:5)
 - The temple, v.21-22 (living stones)

The church is a holy temple in the Lord

- In 1 Corinthians 6:19, the Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
- Here, in Ephesians 2, the church is the temple in the Lord
 - Its cornerstone – Jesus Christ
 - Its foundation – the apostles and prophets (their teaching)
 - The temple – the church
 - Joined together
 - Growing
 - Holy
 - A habitation for God in the Spirit

See What is New in Christ

Compare to God's Kingdom of Israel

- One, united spiritual family
- A new law for all – the gospel
- A new foundation – Christ and the apostles and prophets
- A spiritual temple wherein God dwells

Take Aways

- It is beneficial to remember who and what we used to be, compared to who and what we are now
 - Humility, gratitude, love, praise
 - I have a debt of gratitude
 - Things are better here!
- Christ reconciled us to the Father
- The gospel is for all!
 - Galatians 3:28
 - Neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female
 - All one in Christ Jesus