



Fellowship Groups

“The Greatness of Our Reconciliation”

Ephesians 2:11-22

Speaker: Greg Edwards

Sermon Date: December 4, 2016

LINKS:

This week's sermon:

<https://markhambiblechapel.app.box.com/v/sermons>

Resources Link:

<https://mbc.churchcenteronline.com/groups/fellowship-groups>

Believer's Challenge follow-up:

Think of one area of your life where you need to improve how you demonstrate or reflect your position as an inheritor in Christ. Be prepared to identify the area and share the results of this improvement.

Would anyone like to share an area of improvement and the results since we met last?

Ephesians 2:11-22

What did God Say? - Explore the Passage

Read Ephesians 2:11-22 together.

What does it mean?

V11-12

1. Describe the relationship Gentiles had with Jews at that time, as seen in this passage.
2. Identify five aspects of the Gentile's condition in the flesh, prior to being in Christ Jesus (v12):

We were:

1. **S** _____ from Christ,
2. **A** _____ from the commonwealth of Israel,
3. **S** _____ from the covenants of promise,
4. Without **h** _____ and
5. Without _____ in the world

V13-15

3. The “Hinge” expression “But Now” echoes “But God” in 2:4 and highlights God's actions in light of the estrangement of the Gentiles. Discuss how Gentiles have been “brought near” and God's work of reconciliation as a result of Christ's victory on the cross.

V14-17

4. Identify the three-fold relationship in this passage between Christ and our peace:

v14 – Christ Jesus **IS** our peace (He Himself)

v15 – Christ Jesus **MADE** peace (He reconciled sinful man with a holy God)

v17 – Christ Jesus **PREACHED** peace (To Gentiles and Jews alike)

V18-19

5. In what ways were the Jew and Gentile both made one as a result of Christ's death on the cross?

- i) We became united in Christ as one **n**___ **m**___.
- ii) We are members of one _____
- iii) We each hold heavenly **C**_____ - Phil. 3:20
- iv) We are members of the **h**_____ of God, with God as the Father.
- i) We have all become "**L**_____" (1 Peter 2:5), being built together, with Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone

V22

6. What is God's purpose for those He has made one? (v22) How well are you cooperating with His purpose in your own life?

Why does it Matter?

1. How can it benefit Gentile believers to remember our condition?
2. Christ has broken down the middle wall of separation between Gentiles and Jews and reconciled both to God in one body. Are there ways in which we seek to artificially erect walls of separation where none now exist? If so, why?
3. How does understanding our reconciliation to God in Christ inform our attitude toward fellow believers across the globe? Unbelievers? 2 Cor 5:18-20. Does the role of ambassador apply to some believers and not others?

Believer's Challenge:

Which of your relationships is most in need of Christ's peace at this time? How can you promote the peace of Christ in that relationship?

Share some or all of your experience with your group next week

Additional Studies:

Take turns as a group (or for further study at home) reading the following verses to understand more about what God's word says about reconciliation:

- i. Romans 5:10 - Our state when we were reconciled
- ii. Romans 5:11 - Our experiences now that we are reconciled
- iii. 2 Cor 5:18 - The ministry to others because Christ reconciled us to himself
- iv. 2 Cor 5:19 - Our part in reconciliation
- v. Col 1:21-22 - Our former state and how we were changed through reconciliation
- vi. 1 John 4:10 God's satisfaction to our reconciliation