

## The Reconciliation of the Church

(The Unity of the Body of Christ)

**Text:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Main Idea:** The work of Christ on the cross reconciles both Jew and Gentile uniting them into the Church which is the body of Christ.

### 1. **Remember** our alienation from Christ. (v. 11-12)

- **Social alienation:** Gentiles were social outcasts and had no physical mark to set them apart as the people of God. (v. 11)
- **Spiritual alienation:** Unlike the Jews who were the people of promise from God, the Gentiles were cut off from God & the coming Messiah. (v. 12)
  - 1) Gentiles were separated from Christ.
  - 2) Gentiles were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel.
  - 3) Gentiles were strangers of God's covenant promise.
  - 4) Gentiles were without hope.
  - 5) Gentiles were without God in the world.

### 2. **Rejoice** in our union with Christ! (v. 13-18)

- **Union:** Jesus brings Gentiles (who were far off) near to God by His blood. (13)
- **Peace:** Jesus makes peace abolishing the hostility between Jew & Gentile creating one new man in the place of the two. (v. 14-17)
  - 1) In His flesh, Jesus broke down the dividing wall of hostility (court of Gentiles).
  - 2) He abolished the barriers of the ceremonial law (NOT the moral Law) contained in ordinances.
  - 3) Jesus reconciles both to God through the cross making one body.
  - 4) Jesus killed the hostility with God & with each other.
  - 5) Jesus preached peace to both groups.

- **Access:** Jesus gives both groups access to God through the Holy Spirit. (v. 18)

### 3. **Realize** our glorious new united creation in Christ! (19-22)

- United in God's **Kingdom:** We are fellow citizens with the saints. (v. 19a)
- United in God's **Family:** We are members of the household of God. (v. 19b)
- United in God's **Temple:** We are the Church built together as a dwelling place of God. (v. 20-22)

- 1) The foundation of the Church is the teaching of the apostles & prophets.
- 2) The cornerstone of the Church is Christ Jesus.
- 3) The growth of the Church is continuous as each member is joined together with each other and Christ.
- 4) The character of the Church is holy.
- 5) The habitation of the Church is the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit.