

One Body in Christ Ephesians 2:11-22

I. Gentiles – Separated from God – 2:11-12

1. Gentiles – known as “the uncircumcision” – 11
God called Abraham, with a covenant – Gen. 17:9-10
He gave him a sign of that covenant – circumcision
A sign that he & his seed after him were set apart unto God
This sign made a division between Jews & Gentiles
2. This sign led to a greater division for Gentiles – 12
They were separated from Christ – no promise of Messiah
They were alienated from the commonwealth of Israel
They were not a part of the people set apart unto God
Not under the blessing and protection of God
They were strangers to the covenants of promise
God’s covenants were made with promises to His people
Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Covenant with Israel with Law of Moses
Covenant with David with promise of Messiah
Having no hope and without God in the world
Gentiles had no claim on Jehovah as their God
They were committed to worship of false gods

II. God’s Provision for Gentiles – 2:13-18

1. But now in Christ you are “brought near” – 13
Redemptive work of Christ includes Gentiles
His blood was shed for both Jews & Gentiles –
1 John 2:2
Bringing those who were far off near to God
Paul explains how God did this in Galatians 3
2. Christ made peace between Gentiles & Israel –14-15
Removed the barrier between them making them one
He did this by abolishing the law of commandments
By fulfilling God’s law for both Jew and Gentile –
Matt. 5:17
Law of commandments was “until the coming of Christ” – Gal.3:24
Christ created in Himself one new man
New man in Christ is His body (the church) –
Matt. 16:18
This new one replaces the two making peace - 15
3. Christ has reconciled both to God - 16
Reconciling both in one body through the cross
That one body is the body of Christ
Believing Jews and believing Gentiles
4. Message is now being preached – 17
To you who were far off (Gentiles)
To those who were near (Jews)
5. Through Christ both have access – 18
Access to the Father comes through Christ
And we are so led by one Spirit (Holy Spirit)

III. One New Body in Christ – 2:19-22

1. New position for Gentiles – 19
No longer “strangers and aliens”
Now you are fellow citizens with the saints
Now you are members of the household of God
2. There is one new building (the church) – 20-22
Built on foundation of apostles & prophets
Jesus Christ being the cornerstone
In Christ the structure is being joined together – 21
It is growing into a holy temple in the Lord
As believing Jews & believing Gentiles are added to Christ
3. Function of this Temple - 22
Temple in O.T. was a dwelling place for God
A place with God could meet with His people
Believing Jews & Gentiles are this new Temple
God’s dwelling place is in the Body of Christ
God dwells in this assembly of believers– Matt 18:20
His Holy Spirit dwells in us
This world needs to see God dwelling in His Temple

Gentiles in Abraham – Galatians 3:6-29

1. All nations blessed in Abraham – 6-9
Abraham was justified by faith – 6
True sons of Abraham are men of faith – 7
God included all nations in His blessing – 8-9
2. Those relying on works are cursed – 10
The law condemns those who break it
3. Christ redeemed us from that curse - 13
He bore the curse for us on the cross
4. So blessing of Abraham can be on Gentiles – 14
When we come by faith in Jesus Christ
5. Promises to Abraham & his offspring – 16
Note Offspring is singular – points to Christ
6. Law coming 430 yrs. later cannot change promise
Verse 16-24 explains purpose of the law
Ultimately it points to Christ
7. Now it is “faith in Jesus Christ” – 25-29
Jew or Gentile, all come by faith
8. Note conclusion of Paul’s point – 29
“If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring,
heirs according to promise”