

Differences removed and unity created

Ephesians 2:11-22, page 947

I. GOD REMOVED DIFFERENCES: GOD REMOVED BARRIERS TO CREATE UNITY IN CHRIST (EPH. 2:11-18).

- A. Gentiles were formerly excluded but are now included with Jews through Christ's blood (Christ died for all – 11-13).
- God saves all people on the same basis of the cross (1:7).
- B. Jew and Gentile believers have equal status with God (14-18).
1. Christ made peace by ending the ceremonial law (14-15a).
 2. Christ created a new man (the body is a "third race" – 15b).
 3. Christ reconciled the "body"/church to God by the cross, and gave all equal access to God through the Spirit (16-18).

II. GOD UNIFIED VERY DIFFERENT BELIEVERS: WE ARE JOINED TO EACH OTHER IN CHRIST (EPH. 2:19-22).

- A. All believers are fellow citizens (19a).
- B. All believers are part of the same household/family (19b).
- C. All believers form a building, a temple of the Holy Spirit (20-21).
- The church's foundation is God's word (apostles, prophets). The Cornerstone is Christ (Savior and Head of the body).